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Crown Prince to meet Clinton

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday left Amman for Washington where he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Hussein to U.S. President Bill Clinton. Crown Prince Hassan and President Clinton will also hold talks on international and regional efforts to overcome the obstacles facing the peace process and latest developments in the Middle East. Talks will also cover bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

Israel arrests Palestinian over '94 incident

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli authorities announced on Monday the arrest of a Palestinian wanted for involvement in the October 1994 kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier. Ziad Najib was detained two weeks ago as he entered Israel from Jordan across the King Hussein Bridge, the army said. Najib's house at Bir Nabala north of Jerusalem was used by militants to hide the soldier after his kidnapping. The abducted soldier and another Israeli trooper were killed when the army stormed the house. Several kidnappers from Hamas were also killed in the incident. The army has accused Najib of providing food, clothes and weapons to the Hamas unit which carried out the kidnapping. He left for Jordan two days before the army assault on his house, the army said.

Israel, PNA agree to resume negotiations

We have been able to take a medium step — Albright

NEW YORK (AP) — Taking what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called a "medium step" on the path to peace, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) agreed Monday to resume negotiations Oct. 6.

The decision ended a six-month stalemate marked by violence and recrimination. "There was a downward spiral," Ms. Albright said in making the announcement. "We have arrested the downward spiral and been able to take a medium step" toward a settlement.

Put off until the talks are resumed in the region was a Palestinian demand for a statement disapproving further settlements construction on the West Bank.

Ms. Albright said a definition of the "time-out" in such actions that she also had sought would be taken up during the negotiations.

"We all understand the need to create the right kind of environment," Ms. Albright said at a news conference.

American mediator Dennis Ross will assist in the talks, which will be shifted to Washington later in the month.

Ms. Albright said the talks would focus on implementing the 1993 and 1995 Oslo agreements between Israel and the PNA. These call for a series of military pullbacks by Israel on the West Bank and permit Jewish settlers to remain.

There was no indication Ms. Albright had made headway in her effort to accelerate the negotiations so that such rock-bottom issues as Palestinian demands for a state and for part of Jerusalem can be taken up right away.

The talks broke down in March after Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu approved construction of a Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem in an attempt to expand Jerusalem's Jewish character and bombings against Israel by Islamist groups.

"We all agree there is no place for terrorism and violence in the process," Ms. Albright declared.

Earlier Monday, Mr. Ross shuttled between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, both in New York, to try resolving the dispute, said sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ms. Albright called her joint meeting with Messrs. Levy and Abbas productive, and declared: "I believe we are headed in the right direction."

Whether reopened negotiations will lead to discussion of core issues and succeed is likely to depend on Israel's security concerns.

Mr. Levy, meeting Sunday night with Mr. Ross, stressed security "is our no. 1 issue."

In Tunis, Tunisia, an adviser of President Yasser Arafat said Monday's meeting would show "how much Israel is ready to respect the signed accords" with the Palestinians.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, President Arafat's political counsellor, urged creation of a watchdog process to monitor the implementation of the peace accords, saying this would bring "credibility to negotiations."

He also called on the U.S. to "play a dynamic and effective role and put pressure on Israel to respect its commitments."

Mr. Arafat was wrapping up a visit to Tunisia on Monday with a meeting with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali in an effort to sound out his Arab allies. He was to return to Gaza later Monday.

A major difference between Israel and the Palestinians is an overdue Israeli pullback on the West Bank. Under the 1993 and 1995 Oslo accords, Israel decides how far back to pull its troops and turn administrative control over to the PNA.

A senior adviser to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would consider handing over additional West Bank land only after the PNA has made a serious effort to crush Islamist groups.

"It is inconceivable that even the smallest territorial concessions will be made unless the Palestinians change their position on security," Uzi Arad told Israel radio. Palestinian demands for use of an airport and seaport also would be on the table.

But Ms. Albright hopes to accelerate the pace of peacemaking by getting the two sides to take up the toughest issues. These include Palestinian hope for a separate state with its capital in Jerusalem.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (centre) looks on as Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (left) shakes hands with Palestinian National Authority negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) before their meeting in New York, Monday. Ms. Albright worked to jump-start stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations by meeting several Arab ministers and Mr. Levy throughout the day (Reuters photo)

Israel eases closure while settlers submit more plans

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL EASED its closure of the Palestinian areas and permitted 8,000 more Palestinian workers to get to their jobs in Israel Monday, ahead of an expected announcement on the resumption of peace talks.

A senior adviser to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would only consider handing additional West Bank land to the Palestinians once the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has made a serious effort to crush Islamist groups.

"It is inconceivable that even the smallest territorial concessions will be made unless the Palestinians change their position on security," the adviser, Uzi Arad, told Israel radio.

Jewish settlers have submitted plans for the construction of 10,000 more settlement units in the West Bank and have won the blessing of a senior government official for the first stage of the project, a settler spokesman said Monday.

But an aide to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said the government knew of no such plans. "No plans of any such expansion or settlement have been brought

(Continued on page 7)

Prime minister says peace is int'l strategy, not tactic

AMMAN (Petra) — In a statement before his return home to Amman, Dr. Majali urged all the parties concerned in the peace process to commit to the peace agreements signed.

"Peace is an international strategy rather than a tactic which no one can evade. We are trying our best to unify Arab ranks in order to regain Arab rights. The West is now well aware that Israel is behind the faltering peace process. Therefore, efforts and pressures are exercised upon Israel to overcome such obstacles," said the prime minister.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali returned to Amman Monday after concluding a three-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman, where he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos. The contents of the message were not revealed.

Dr. Majali held talks with leading Omani government officials on means of bolstering Jordanian-Omani ties in various fields and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri and Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi, toured a number of Omani projects and industrial businesses.

The ministers held separate talks with their Omani counterparts on promoting bilateral cooperation in health and education-related fields.

5 weeklies file 2nd law suit against government

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five weekly newspapers yesterday filed a law suit against the government at the Higher Court of Justice, charging that they have been subjected to an unjust law and that the government had exceeded its powers in ordering the suspension of 13 weekly newspapers last week.

Sawt Al Mara'a Chief Editor Jamal Muhtaseb said that the five papers — Sawt Al Mara'a, Al Hadath, Al Bilad and Al Majd — decided to bring the case, their second against the government since amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law were issued in May, because they felt that the government had misused its vested powers in its decision last week to suspend publication of 13 weekly newspapers.

The government gave the order — effective for three months — after a committee at the Ministry of Information ruled that the papers had failed to adequately raise their registered capital to JD300,000 in accordance with the law. The newspapers have consistently asserted that they have met the requirement, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where the papers are registered as legal entities, has supported their claims.

"Obviously, this isn't a matter of fulfilling requirements," said Mr. Muhtaseb, "it is a political decision."

Editors and owners of weeklies have maintained that the government is seeking to gag the press during upcoming parliamentary elections, and at the same time, deny them revenue of campaign advertisements.

A law suit filed earlier this summer by the five weeklies charged that amendments to the law were unconstitutional and requested that the Higher Court of Justice rule on

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli soldier killed in south Lebanon

Combined agency dispatches

AN ISRAELI officer was killed Monday in a bombardment of his base in occupied southern Lebanon by Hizbollah fighters, officials said.

Lebanese security sources said the soldier was killed when Hizbollah fired around a dozen mortar rounds on an Israeli position at Mashaaroune on the edge of the central part of the "security zone" set up by Israel in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli army said an officer was critically wounded by a missile fired during the attack and died later of his wounds in an Israeli hospital.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah military wing, claimed responsibility for the attack saying in a statement, "our commandos scored a direct hit on Israeli troops installing a radar and launching pad for missiles."

In the statement released in Beirut, the group also claimed to have staged attacks on three other positions of the Israeli army and its Lebanese allies the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Monday.

No casualties were reported in the other attacks.

The slain Israeli soldier was the 35th killed in southern Lebanon since the beginning of the year, the highest toll since the "security zone" was set up in 1985 to ward off attacks on Israel's northern border.

On Monday, Hizbollah said they will keep on launching suicide attacks against Israeli troops in Lebanon and aim to kill as many soldiers as possible.

"Although we have lost units fighting the enemy, we will continue to use these tactics," a spokesman for the Lebanese resistance group told Jane's International Defence review in an interview conducted in Beirut.

Hizbollah is Israel's most active and dreaded enemy in Lebanon. It is fighting to oust Israeli troops and their local militia allies from Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone.

The spokesman, identified as "Mr. Moussawi," said the group's successes could be put down to a high level of motivation as well as absolute obedience to it's leaders.

"We have our own methods and teaching systems which have proved to be successful, such as the suicide bombers who follow the orders of their leaders without question.

"The objective basically is to kill the biggest number of the enemy," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, the international panel monitoring the ceasefire in southern Lebanon met here Monday to discuss an Israeli complaint that a Hizbollah guerrilla attack wounded a civilian in the area.

Israel charged that a resident of its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon was wounded Thursday by Hizbollah fire at a position of the SLA, Israel's proxy militia.

The meeting, at the Naqoura headquarters on the Israeli-Lebanese border of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, was the 18th by the U.S.-chaired committee this year.

The panel, which monitors violations of the April 1996 truce which ended Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation in southern Lebanon, also includes representatives of France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

A member of the Lebanese delegation, who asked not to be identified, told AFP that "the Israeli complaint is baseless. Israel is not entitled to complain when Lebanese civilians have been attacked."

Turkish jets launch new air raids in northern Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish jets pounded more Kurdish rebel positions in northern Iraq at dawn Monday, the eighth day of the offensive, Turkey's official Anatolia news agency reported.

The air strikes by F-4 and F-16 jet fighters targeted five locations in the region, the dispatch said.

Some 16,000 Turkish troops are involved in the crackdown on rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party, (PKK).

The rebels, meanwhile, stepped up offensives inside Turkey, killing six village guards, recruited by the state to fight the rebels,

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq accuses Iran of raids; exiles targeted

BAGHDAD (R) — Eight Iranian warplanes raided targets inside Iraq Monday, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The targeted areas are home to the Iranian exile group Mujahideen Khalq.

The spokesman gave no details of casualties but said Iran was fully responsible for any casualties and damage caused by the raids.

"At 7 a.m. local time this morning eight Iranian warplanes raided targets inside our territory in Daiyla and Kut provinces. Our alert anti-aircraft units have confronted the enemy planes as soon as the raids took place," the spokesman said, according to the Iraqi News Agency.

"Our jet fighters chased the invading planes, forcing them to flee inside Iran," he added. There was no immediate comment from Iran.

(Continued on page 7)

Qadhafi demands 'British agents who killed Diana' be tried in Libya, says Dodi is Libyan not Egyptian

CAIRO (AP) — Muammar Qadhafi has often said that if Washington expects two Libyans to stand trial for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet, it should turn over the U.S. pilots who carried out a 1986 air raid on Libya.

On Sunday, Colonel Qadhafi added a new condition: Britain must hand over intelligence agents who he claims killed Princess Diana and her friend, Dodi Fayed, by arranging their fatal Aug. 31 car crash.

Col. Qadhafi has repeatedly rejected British and U.S. demands that the two Libyans implicated in the Pan Am bombing over the Scottish town of Lockerbie be handed over for trial in the U.S. or Scotland. The bombing killed 270 people on board.

"Britain has no right to talk about Lockerbie till after these assassins (British agents) are tried before Libyan court," Col. Qadhafi told reporters.

Col. Qadhafi's comments were reported by the Libyan news agency, JANA, which faxed its report to the Associated Press in Cairo.

Col. Qadhafi insists that Fayed, an Egyptian, is of Libyan origin. An early proponent of a conspiracy theory, Libya openly claims that the British intelligence agency killed him and Princess Diana to prevent a possible marriage that could have embarrassed the British royalty by producing children with Muslim names.

But this is the first time Col. Qadhafi had sought to link Diana's death with the Lockerbie case.

Col. Qadhafi also repeated his old demand that the U.S. turn over the pilots who carried out the April 14-15, 1986 bombing of Tripoli and the port of Benghazi. He has also demanded custody of the officials who planned the attack.

"The situation is made up of 'locker a' and 'Lockerbie', and 'locker a' must be solved first," Col. Qadhafi said.

Libya said 37 people, including an adopted daughter of Col. Qadhafi, were killed in the attack, which retaliated for the bombing of a Berlin discotheque in which two U.S. servicemen were killed. The United States accused Libya of sponsoring the disco attackers.

Libya's refusal to hand over the Pan Am suspects resulted in U.N. sanctions that since 1992 have limited diplomatic contacts and banned weapons sales and international flights to or from the country.

Libya says the suspects should be tried in a neutral country or in the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

HANGING AROUND AFTER CAPTIVITY: Moroccan prisoners of war sit in a prison courtyard on Saturday. The prisoners, some of whom had been captive for 20 years, were released by the Polisario, but Morocco failed to recognise them as Moroccan prisoners of war. The Polisario Front and Morocco have agreed to set a referendum for next year to solve their dispute over the rule of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara (Reuters photo)

Hamas denounces crackdown by PNA

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Hamas denounced as a crime Monday the closure by Palestinian police of 16 of its social institutions in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas which opposes peace agreements with Israel, accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of bowing to pressure from Israel and the U.S. following a spate of Jerusalem bombings blamed on Hamas.

"This reflects the depth of the crisis in the Palestinian [National] Authority," Hamas said in a statement faxed to news organisations.

Under strong U.S. and Israeli pressure, PNA police last week rounded up dozens of Hamas figures and closed the 16 Gaza institutions accused of helping raise funds for the group's armed actions against Israel.

The crackdown was launched after Israel offered proof that two Jerusalem bombings in recent weeks were carried out by members of the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing, in the West Bank.

"The closing of humanitarian, educational and health institutions as a way of attacking the infrastructure of the Palestinian resistance factions is a crime which shows the other face of corruption in the Palestinian [National] Authority," Hamas said.

"We assured all our people that Hamas will continue its programme of resisting Zionist occupation," it said.

The statement also chided President Yasser Arafat for failing to denounce an alleged assassination attempt in Amman last week against Khaled Misha'al, a senior Hamas political official.

"The [Palestinian National] Authority was so fast to offer condolences to the Zionists [after the recent bombings], but we saw no attempt from their side to say anything regarding attempted assassination of Khaled Misha'al," it said.

Mr. Misha'al was hospitalised in Amman last week after being attacked by two men he claimed were Israeli agents.

Directors of some of the offices closed last week by the Palestinian police, which included a kindergarten and other Islamist welfare bodies, denied any connection to Hamas. But in Monday's statement the group clearly identified the institutions as part of its network.

Israel slapped harsh sanctions on the Palestinians and suspended application of signed peace accords following the recent bombings, saying the PNA had failed to honour it's obligation to battle anti-Israeli violence.

But after Israel identified the bombers as West Bank militants, Mr. Arafat said he had been mislead by Hamas leaders who lied about their link to the bombings.

KUWAIT STRIKE: Striking oil workers' supervisor Mohamed Yousif (2-right) and his coworkers sit on the floor playing a game of cards on Sunday at their Union headquarters. Kuwait National Petroleum Company. workers union have threatened to gradually widen their Mina Al Ahmadi crude and product exports terminal strike to include other operation units (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan denies reported attack in Eritrea

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese armed forces spokesman Mohammad Al Sanousi Ahmad has strongly denied a reported attack by Sudanese troops on Eritrean territory. "Our forces have not launched and will not launch any attack on Eritrean territories but we will reserve the right to react in legitimate means," General Ahmad was Monday quoted by the independent daily Alwan as saying in response to a foreign media report. He described the report as "a manoeuvre" by the foreign media and said such reports usually preceded Eritrean aggression on the Sudanese side of the border. Gen. Ahmad said the Eritrean press had also carried an "erroneous" report of an assault on Adaroth village near Port Sudan on the Red Sea. "The Eritrean troops have not reached any locality near Port Sudan," Gen. Ahmad said.

Two executed in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia Monday executed a Saudi murderer and a Pakistani drug smuggler, raising the number of beheadings this year to 111. Sultan Ben Abdullah Ben Sultan, a Saudi, was convicted of murdering three fellow nationals, the interior ministry said. The statement said Sultan killed brothers Saad and Khaled Juha and their cousin Mubarak Abdullah Juwayed with an automatic rifle after an argument. It did not give other details. Taj Malook Malik, a Pakistani, was convicted of smuggling an undisclosed amount of heroin into the kingdom, the ministry said. It did not say when or where the drugs were detected. Both men were beheaded in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Saudi Arabia has beheaded 56 drug smugglers this year. Last year a total of 71 people were beheaded.

Ali Nasser Mohammad undergoes heart bypass

BEIRUT (AFP) — The former President of South Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammad has undergone a heart bypass operation in Lebanon after suffering a heart attack but his life is not in danger, medical officials said on Monday. Mr. Mohammad was admitted to the American University Hospital in Beirut nine days ago after being flown on a private plane from Latakia on the Syrian coast. Since being ousted from power in 1986, Mr. Mohammad has lived in Damascus where he runs a political research centre, but he returned to Yemen for the first time earlier this year. North and South Yemen merged in May 1990.

Yilmaz starts visit to Germany

BONN (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz arrived in Germany Monday, on his first official trip abroad since he took office in June, for talks expected to focus on Turkey's relations with the European Union (EU). Mr. Yilmaz, who speaks fluent German, was due to hold discussions with Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday after meetings with business and political leaders and representatives of Germany's two-million-strong Turkish community. Mr. Yilmaz, a conservative, came to power after Islamist Necmettin Erbakan's government collapsed in June under intense pressure from the secularist military, which accused it of going too far in its religious activism.

Syria moves troops, Iraq mobilises forces after Turkish incursion

ANKARA (AFP) — Syria has moved a tank division to the triangle of its borders with Turkey and Iraq and Baghdad has mobilised forces after a Turkish army incursion into northern Iraq against separatist Kurds, a leading Iraqi opposition group said Monday.

"Syria has in the last couple of days sent an armoured division of some 5,000 men to the area where Syrian, Turkish and Iraqi borders converge," a London spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress (INC) told AFP by telephone.

"Iraq has moved its Medina Division, an armoured unit, from the south to Mosul and sent the Baghdad Division based at Mosul to the frontline with the Kurdish area," the spokesman said.

"All Iraqi regular army units and Republican Guards are on maximum alert," he said.

"It seems Syria is sending a signal that it is disagreeing with the Turkish incursion," the spokesman added.

Up to 20,000 Turkish troops, backed by around 100 tanks and allied with an Iraqi Kurdish group, have poured into neighbouring northern Iraq since last Tuesday in an effort to wipe out bases of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Turkish warplanes have also bombed rebel targets in Iraq.

Labour apologises to Jews from Arab lands

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition Labour Party made a formal apology Sunday for its treatment of Jews who immigrated to Israel from Arab lands in the 1950s.

"I request in my name and the name of the Labour Party forgiveness for those who caused them this suffering," party leader Ehud Barak told a Labour convention held in the southern town of Netivot, where many such immigrants had settled.

The convention endorsed the apology by a large majority, Israeli television and radio stations said.

There were reservations to the move, widely seen as an effort by Labour, which had its roots among left-wing Jews from Europe, to win over voters who mainly support the ruling, right-wing Likud.

Former leader Shimon Peres, 73, an influential Labour figure during the years in question, told the convention that "yes, mistakes were also made — but my heart is full of true pride" at the effort made by Israel in its early years to absorb the wave of immigrants.

Many Jews with roots in Arab lands bear a grudge against the European-Jewish establishment that presided over their immigration to Israel in the 1950s. Labour's parent parties ruled Israel in those years.

Israel, founded in 1948, had few resources and the immigrants lived in tents and shanty towns. Many were eventually settled by the government in what became known as "development towns" on Israel's borders and in the depressed south.

Development towns remain areas of high unemployment.

The Likud Party in the 1970s was first to appoint an immigrant from an Arab land, Moroccan-born David Levy, to a senior ministerial post.

Today Mr. Levy is Israel's foreign minister and Likud enjoys deep support amongst Jews with roots in Arab lands.

Munir Bashir, renowned Iraqi musician, dead at 67

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a lifetime of producing Arab musical compositions, the famous Iraqi composer Munir Bashir, an ambassador of Iraqi and Arab culture to the world, died Sunday in Hungary.

The late composer, who died at the age of 67, embodied the ancient and spiritual Iraqi culture and traditional music in his works, including performances before Arab League meetings and artistic events worldwide.

He had a strong sense of expression at his fingertips when playing the lute, his primary instrument, displaying a magical touch on the strings.

Bernard Holland, a music critic at the New York Times, wrote after listening to his symphonies that "Munir Bashir has a freedom in improvised and spontaneous composition. He composes in exemplary methods, and gives the listener a feeling that is both strange and intimate."

Dr. Bashir had a strong sense of antiquated Arab culture and the ability to express deep emotions in music that could be felt and understood by Arabs and non-Arabs alike.

His lute was specially made by Mohammad Awad, a lute maker in Baghdad, who met Dr. Bashir's special demands by installing five double strings and a sixth which was thicker than the others and was placed at the top.

He took the origin of each piece he composed into consideration, and displayed an ability to isolate himself in his performances, where he would express nostalgia, regret, and grief, then beauty, happiness, and joy.

Dr. Bashir was born in the northern city of Mosul in Iraq in 1930, and was from a family gifted with musical talents. His brother Jamil was a dominant personality in the renovation of music and songs in Iraq, and his other brother Fakhri was a famous violin composer.

At an early age, he attended the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad, where he studied music and was tutored and deeply influenced by his professor, Muhiddin Hayder, who taught him how to compose on the lute and cello.

He completed his studies in Budapest, Hungary, where he earned his PhD.

In 1954, he presented concerts in over 50 countries in Asia, Europe and America.

He received many honorary titles and medals, the most famous of which were the Key to Paris from French President Jacques Chirac and the Medal of Independence (Istiklal) from His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Bashir resided in Amman for the last three years and performed several times, including last Ramadan at the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and three months ago with an Iraqi guitarist, Ziad Awsi, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Munir Bashir

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:10 ..... Sando Can
14:30 ..... C.R.O.
15:00 ..... Square One TV
15:30 ..... Skippy
16:00 ..... Album Show
17:00 ..... French Programmes
19:00 ..... News in French
19:30 ..... News Headlines
19:35 ..... Coach
20:00 ..... Tilt
20:30 ..... Encounter
21:10 Doc. — Nature of Things
22:00 ..... News in English
22:30 ..... Great Defender
23:15 ..... I Remember Nelson
23:59 ..... End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 ..... Fajr
05:24 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:26 ..... Dhuhr
14:50 ..... 'Asr
17:28 ..... Maghreb
18:45 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with clouds appearing at low altitudes in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 14/26
Aqaba 22/35
Deserts 13/29
Jordan Valley 22/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb ..875748
Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351
Dr. Abbas Hakim 885446
Dr. Adnan Ashhab 602507
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 882014
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ya'coub Al Khatib 991772
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 0853200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akileh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mnasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)
07:30 ..... Sanaa, Aqaba (RJ)
09:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
09:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)
09:40 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)
16:30 ..... London (RJ)
16:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)
00:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)
00:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)
Other Flights
08:00 ..... Cairo (MS)
12:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)
13:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
15:40 ..... Istnabul (TK)
16:45 ..... Doha (GF)
17:05 ..... Kiev (6U)
20:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)
21:50 ..... Aden (IY)
22:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)
22:45 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
23:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)
00:25 ..... Jakarta (GA)
02:00 ..... Rome (AZ)
03:25 ..... London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
07:45 ..... Aqaba (RW)
09:05 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:20 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)
18:30 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20 ..... Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:55 ..... Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
09:00 ..... Paris (add) (RJ)
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:25 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:10 ..... Paris (RJ)
12:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)
13:05 ..... London (RJ)
13:05 ..... Madrid (RJ)
19:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)
20:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:40 ..... Damascus (RJ)
20:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
21:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
00:15 ..... Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights
03:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)
09:00 ..... Cairo (MS)
16:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)
18:00 ..... Doha (RJ)
18:05 ..... Kiev (6U)
19:15 ..... Dubai (EK)
21:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)
22:50 ..... Aden (IY)
00:55 ..... Bucharest (RO)
01:25 ..... London (GA)
01:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 ..... Athens (OA)
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15 ..... Aqaba (RW)
09:30 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55 ..... Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 ..... Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

A VISIT TO UMM AL HUSSEIN ORPHANAGE: **Wives of Arab and foreign diplomats Monday tour the divisions of the Umm Al Hussein Orphanage, where they are briefed on its activities and services offered to the local community. They were acquainted with the aims of the orphanage. The wives of Arab and foreign diplomats hold an annual bazaar whose proceeds go to the orphanage's 140 students. This year's bazaar will be held October 9 at Al Hussein Sports City (Petra photo)**

NCP announces 'stealth candidates' to receive indirect support in campaign

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The National Constitutional Party (NCP), which announced earlier this week a preliminary official ticket, is finalising a second list of candidates that it will indirectly support in the race, but it will not publish this list until after the elections, a party source said on condition of anonymity.

The so-called "stealth candidates," named after the U.S. fighter plane equipped to avoid radar detection, will reveal themselves and join the NCP bloc in the future Parliament only after, and if, they win, the source stated, adding that the secret list will be ready "in a matter of days" and could include "around 20 names."

The source offered various explanations for the "stealth-candidate" phenomenon.

In some districts, he said, the party had already chosen its candidates, but, "at the same time, it had no objections on being represented in the next Parliament by other persons who have already shown loyalty to its programme and principles."

In other districts, "the situation is still very confused," therefore neither the party nor the candidates thought it appropriate to "put their cards on the table," until after the elections' final results are announced.

Finally, "a few candidates, though agreeing with the NCP programme, preferred to run their campaign independently," the source said.

Disappointing many observers who expected it to field many more candidates, the NCP announced a list of only 12 names for the Kingdom's 21 electoral districts.

NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali, however, told a press conference Saturday that "the ticket was still open" and the party intended to make use of the time still left to the start of official registration to ponder the situation.

Mr. Majali also confirmed that winning candidates who were not included in the party's "official list" but share the NCP's views and principles could join the party after the elections.

The NCP preliminary official ticket includes only one woman, Da'ad Tamimi, who will run in the two-seat Aqaba District.

Other candidates are Mr. Majali himself (Karak), NCP Deputy Secretaries General Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh (Irbid) and Talal Ramahi (Zarqa), former Deputies Rateb Sa'oud (Tafileh), and Jamal Khreisha (Central Bedouins).

The list also includes Ibrahim Kheir Keilani and Farah Rabadi (Amman Third Circle), Jamal Ma'alawani (Amman Second Circle), Mohammed Odeh Najadat and Abdullah Jazi (Southern Bedouins), and Hisham Sharari (Ma'an).

Meanwhile, local press reports yesterday said 25 more NCP Aqaba branch members resigned during the weekend, adding to the flood of resignations that has been afflicting the party in the last few weeks.

Last week, 12 Aqaba branch and 18 Karak branch members resigned in protest against what they deemed as "lack of democracy in decision-making" and "tyranny" within the party.

Previously, 25 members of the NCP Irbid branch handed in their resignations.

Akif Fayez, former chairman of the NCP Higher Steering Committee also resigned two weeks ago, citing "authoritarian and unilateral decisions taken by the leadership, lack of consultation in decision-making, in addition to repeated violations of the party's statute," as the reasons behind his decision.

Commenting on the resignations, Mr. Majali told Saturday's press conference that they were a "healthy sign."

He stated that, since the resignations were not prompted by political reasons, it was "healthy" for the party that those having "personal problems," or not feeling at ease with the party's organisation left.

He stressed that, since the resignees did not express differences or disagreement with the party's platform or principles, their reasons were to be considered "personal" ones.

Princess Basma meets with new president of humanitarian club

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday received the newly-elected president and members of the managing council of the Amman chapter of Rotary's Inner Wheel Club and wished them success in their endeavours.

Commending the club's members for their humanitarian mission and activities, the Princess noted that the Inner Wheel Club has been cooperating closely with the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) in social and voluntary activities in Jordan.

Anas Saket, the club's president, expressed deep appreciation for the Princess' efforts in humanitarian and development affairs in general, and in ways to promote the status of women in Jordan in particular.

Mrs. Saket said the club would like to further cement ties with QAF to offer better humanitarian and voluntary services to the Kingdom.

Raja Hamzeh, the wife of the Rotary Club's governor in Egypt, was present at the meeting, as well as leading members of the Inner Wheel Club in the Kingdom.

110 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday sent shipments of food supplies, medicine, and other relief aid to the *Iraqi people*, and said preparations are underway to dispatch similar shipments to the Palestinian people.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi said a total of 110 tonnes of relief supplies, including stationery for Iraqi children, were sent by truck and more supplies will be sent to Iraq later.

Dr. Abbadi, who is also secretary general of the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO), said the shipments are being sent upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The supplies were collected by the HCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Care, Jordanian voluntary groups, and private sector organisations and companies, he said.

The HCO consulted with the Iraqi health authorities through the ministry in Amman on the types of drugs needed by the Iraqi people, mainly children.

The supplies were sent in five tucks and were accompanied on the trip by Abdul Fattah Salah, the secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Dr. Abbadi said a shipment of relief supplies for the Palestinian people will be ready within a few days.

Apple fair displaying Jordanian produce opens tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) tomorrow will open the second annual Jordanian apple fair, which will display more than 50 types of apples, most of which are grown in the Shobak District within the Ma'an Governorate in southern Jordan.

NCARTT Director Ismail Tweisi said a large number of apple tree investors will attend the fair, to be held at the Professional Associations Complex, and will also take part in lecture sessions on the cultivation of apple trees and ways to improve apple output in Jordan.

Mr. Tweisi said apple tree cultivation in Jordan started in early 1950, and by 1952 a total of 1,600 dunums of land were planted with apple trees.

That figure has risen to 16,000 dunums at present, he said.

More attention is being given to apple trees, with farmers increasingly employing modern techniques, using better fertilisers, and introducing modern irrigation methods, he explained.

The new techniques and measures taken by the government to encourage apple tree cultivation have resulted in a reduction in apple imports, from 53.1 tonnes in 1985 to 8.6 tonnes in the 1990s, according to Mr. Tweisi.

It is estimated that 45.2 per cent of the apples sold in local markets come from the Shobak district, 31.7 per cent from Irbid, and 14 per cent from Amman, the three largest areas of apple cultivation in the Kingdom, he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture's nurseries annually produce 100,000 apple tree saplings, which are distributed to farmers and apple growers, but nearly half a million saplings are still imported annually from Syria and Lebanon, as well as from France, Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain, he continued.

Due to the success of growing apple trees in the south, several firms have been investing in large areas of land with the encouragement of the ministry, Mr. Tweisi added.

In view of the increased apple production in Jordan, the government has imposed restrictions on imports, which according to Mr. Tweisi, were worth JD7.1 million in the 1960s, dropping to 1.8 million in the early 1990s.

Since apples can be stored for a long time, prices have been stable in the local market, he said.

Exhibition featuring Catalan master works begins Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the Royal Society of Fine Arts, in cooperation with Generalitat De Catalunya, Institut Catala De La Mediterrania, Instituto Cervantes, and Agencid Espanala De Cooperation Internacional, proudly presents "Aura Mediterrania," a group exhibition by Catalan masters of the 20th century at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Amman Oct. 1-28, according to a Royal Society of Fine Arts announcement.

The aim of this Catalan masters exhibition is to provide a panoramic view of 20th century Catalan art, from Antoni Gaudi, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, and their contemporaries, as well as Tapies and Clave, who are among the best known and commanding artistic figures of modern art, according to the announcement.

All of these artists, except Picasso, were born in the region of Spain known as Catalonia. Their life experiences, training, and careers often overlapped; together, they describe a network of mutual influence and friendships, a fusion of talent in Catalonia that has had a far-reaching impact on the artistic history of the twentieth century, the statement continued.

While there have been similar exhibitions in Europe, Catalan masters of the 20th century is the first exhibition of its kind to bring the collective Catalonian achievement to the Middle East and Jordan in particular, the statement concluded.

PSD urges motorists to prepare vehicles for winter season

By Rana Husseini
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) urged motorists in the Kingdom to examine their vehicles and exert extra safety precautions in preparation for the winter season.

The PSD's call came following eight deaths and 100 injuries in 146 road accidents Sunday involving 260 vehicles, all blamed on slippery roads because of the light showers that fell early Sunday morning.

On the Jerash-Irbid Highway, five people were killed and 44 injured when the bus they were riding overturned several times and landed in a valley.

"The PSD regrets the occurrence of such tragic accidents and urges motorists to start preparing their vehicles for the winter season," a PSD statement said.

The department urged motorists to drive at a slow speed and keep a safe distance between vehicles during rain to prevent "sudden skids."

The PSD usually conducts road inspections every year before the winter season and checks lights, the tires, and windshield wiper conditions.

Of the 146 road accidents that were reported Sunday, the PSD report said 11 were run-over accidents, one of which resulted in the death of a five-year old in the Balama area near Mafraq.

The victim was crossing the street when she was struck by a bus. Traffic officials blamed the driver of the bus for failing to yield to pedestrians.

The toddler was rushed to Mafraq Government Hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

On July 8 of this year, eight Saudi nationals were killed and 22 more were injured when the bus they were riding near the Rewished area collided with a truck.

Last year, traffic statistics indicated that 552 people were killed and 15,375 injured in 33,784 reported road accidents in the Kingdom.

ANANI RECEIVES BRITISH DELEGATION: **Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani Monday receives a British delegation from the College of Defence. Dr. Anani and the visiting delegation reviewed the political situation in the Middle East and the peace process (Petra photo)**

Agreement signed for electrical substation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement between the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) and the German firm AEG T&D was signed Monday for the establishment of an electrical 400 kv substation at the Amman north site, near Shafa Badran, according to a NEPCO press release Monday.

M.S. Arafah, the managing director of NEPCO, and L. Fischer, the AEG project manager of power distribution projects, signed the contract agreement, the statement continued.

This JD9 million substation is necessary for the interconnection of the 400 kv networks in Jordan and Syria and also will function in the five country interconnection between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, the statement read.

This project will be financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, according to the announcement.

The completion date of all works under this contract will be around the second quarter of 1999, the statement concluded.

Jordan Times
Fax #
696-183

Coral reef workshop highlights fragile nature of Red Sea corals

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A five-day regional coral reef workshop concluded last week with a number of statements on the uniqueness of the "Middle East Seas" and particularly the vulnerability of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba to various forms of pollution.

"Jordan has been playing a major role in the protection of coral reefs in the Middle East," said Peter Thomas, a senior scientist from the U.S State Department.

The goal of the regional workshop, hosted by the Aqaba Region Authority and organised by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), was to focus on threats particular to this region and those common to others.

In addition, attention was drawn to the capacities of government institutions in addressing coral reef threats in the Middle East.

President of the Aqaba Regional Authority, Fayez Khasawneh inaugurated this event by illustrating the coral reef situation in Aqaba.

"Many of the universal considerations regarding coral reefs are being taken into account in Aqaba," Dr. Thomas told the Jordan Times, adding that there is an attempt to address problems of the marine environment and those associated with the dust generated from the loading of phosphates at shipping terminals in Aqaba.

The workshop brought to the forefront the impact of tourism as a common threat to coral reefs in the region.

"We discussed how this could be channeled and controlled so that tourists would not damage the reefs," commented Dr. Thomas, who is also a former ICRI global coordinator.

The workshop included a boat trip along the coasts of Jordan, Israel, Egypt, and the Saudi-Jordanian border.

Dr. Thomas pointed out that there were common coral reef problems generated from the industrial development of these countries.

Regional and international experts and environmental policy-makers from Djibouti, Egypt, Israel, Oman, and Yemen, as well as representatives from the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility, participated in this event.

A draft action plan adopted by the participants included increasing the ability to manage coral reefs in a sustainable manner, making use of scientific knowledge to better understand the state of coral reefs, and capacity-building in developing countries.

Dr. Thomas said he believed that these regional workshops gave participants a common perspective to their problems and solutions that could be brought forward to decision-makers.

As a follow-up to this workshop, Dr. Thomas stated that the "Tropical Marine Environment Management Symposium" will take place in Australia next year to discuss the common problems of coral reef managers from all over the world.

This event was sponsored by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Agency for International Development.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Musical performance entitled "The Stairs of Amman" by Ruba Saker, Rashid Al Rusan, and Ashraf Saker at 8:00 p.m.
* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadji at the South Hall.
* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

CONCERT

* Musical performance by the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

* Egyptian film "Rayya and Sakinah" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m.
* "The Russia House" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Center, Abdoun, until Oct. 20 (to open at 6:00 p.m. and to be followed by a lecture by the artist on the art of quilt-making).
* Paintings by Fatima El-Helou at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 4.
* "The Projects of the Essence: Aspects of Italian Painting in the 90s" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 2.
* Works by Khlief Mahmoud Khlief at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 2 (Tel. 5536098).
* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactivite" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

Britain's Labour Party begins conference with jobs-for-all goal

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's Labour Party Monday kicked off its first conference in power since 1978 with a vow to get tough with jobless youngsters and single mothers as part of its goal of restoring full employment.

Basking in the afterglow of its crushing defeat of the Conservatives at the May 1 election, Labour wants to use the conference to launch what Finance Minister Gordon Brown calls a root and branch reform of Britain.

A central plank of Labour's strategy is an ambitious package of measures aimed at creating jobs for all through mixture of training, tax reform and incentives to employers and employees alike.

In a keynote speech Monday, advance excerpts of which were released to journalists, Mr. Brown will commit the government to a "radical and credible" programme that "will lead us to the goal of employment opportunities for all — full employment for the 21st century."

The party conference in the south England seaside town of Brighton is the first Labour has staged while in government for 19 years. From 1979, Labour lost four general elections to the Conservatives before its landslide victory five months ago.

The goal of full employment is a powerful totem for Labour.

It was dropped by Prime Minister Tony Blair when he took over the party in 1994 and by reviving the ambition, Labour's leaders hope to defuse the anger of unions and left-wingers over the government's tight grip on public pay and spending.

"We will end the Tory paradox of an army of unemployed youngsters living in a nation full of unmet needs," Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told the opening session of the conference.

The number of people unemployed in Britain has already fallen on the back of a sustained economic recovery to less than 1.5 million, a 17-year low.

Economists question how much further the 5.3 per cent jobless rate can drop without triggering inflation.

Speaking on BBC Radio, Mr. Brown refused to put a figure on full employment, saying only that it should be "high and stable levels of employment."

To tackle a hard core of perhaps 800,000 Britons who either cannot or will not work, Mr. Brown wants to push through what he called an "ambitious but tough" action plan targeted on unemployed under-25s and single mothers.

Under the £5 billion ($8.1 billion) programme unveiled in July, young people unemployed for more than six months will be required to take a job, work experience or training or risk losing their welfare benefits.

"Now that is surely right for the young person and right for the economy. There is no young person who should be out of work for months on end without the opportunity and indeed the responsibility to work," Brown told BBC Radio.

In a parallel initiative, Social Security Secretary Harriet Harman said she was also examining a scheme in the U.S. state of Wisconsin that sets time limits on the welfare benefits received by single mothers.

She told BBC Television that the government cannot just "stand by" and allow one million lone mothers to bring up children on income support.

Mr. Brown, who has vowed to keep a tight grip on the public purse to lay the basis for sustained economic growth, said spending $20 billion a year on unemployment benefits was a terrible waste of public money.

"We can use these resources better by getting people back to work," he said.

To provide incentives for low earners, Mr. Brown will spell out plans for a U.S.-style earned income tax credit and a super-low starting income tax rate of 10 per cent as a partial alternative to topping up wages with welfare handouts.

Mr. Brown was due to speak after delegates have debated the final package of reforms to Labour's internal structures that Mr. Blair is forcing through to reduce friction between the Labour government and the party apparatus.

Many left-wingers are angry about the proposals, fearing that the rank and file will cede influence over policy-making to Mr. Blair's ministers and that the conference, now a testing ground for policy, will be neutered into a cheerleaders' rally.

But Mr. Brown believes that shaking up the party machine so it works hand in glove with the government is vital before Labour can move on to a root and branch reform of Britain.

Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) and his Deputy John Prescott take the stage on the first day of the Labour Party conference Monday. Chancellor Gordon Brown will later make his speech to delegates visiting the first conference since Labour won power in the general election in May (Reuter photo)

Explosion of Basque ETA car injures one in Spain

MADRID (R) — A car exploded in the southern Spanish city of Granada Monday slightly injuring one person in what officials said was a failed attack by Basque separatist guerrillas.

Police received a telephone tipoff just minutes before the explosion in the name of the ETA group. Surrounding buildings and cars were also damaged.

Police said they believed the car might have been destroyed to get rid of evidence after a grenade attack, possibly on a nearby Civil Guard barracks, went wrong.

Nine unexploded grenades were found nearby and an emergency services official said he spotted what appeared to be grenade launchers in the wrecked vehicle.

Officials said the attack was further evidence that ETA may have a hideout in the southern region of Andalusia, where Granada is.

Bombs were found under the cars of a mayor and a town councillor in another southern Spanish town earlier this month. Police conducted controlled explosions and no one was hurt.

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) has killed some 800 people in a 29-year struggle for an independent Basque homeland.

Author: Diana was source behind book

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana was the real source behind a book that demolished the myth of her fairy tale marriage to Prince Charles, the author said Monday.

"The story contained in its pages came from her lips," revealed Andrew Morton, whose "Diana, Her True Story" exposed her suicide attempts, battle with eating disorders and heartache over her husband's infidelity.

"To all intents and purposes it was her autobiography, the personal testament of a woman who saw herself as voiceless and powerless," Mr. Morton told the Times newspaper.

Diana, killed in a car crash in Paris on Aug. 31, had always denied collaborating on the sensational book and friends took the flak for the startling revelations.

But Mr. Morton, who is now publishing a revised edition of the book, said she was the principal source, giving a series of candid interviews through an intermediary.

"It is right that Diana herself has the chance to speak," he said. "The establishment tried to deny her it in life. I do not think they can deny her in death."

Mr. Morton called the princess his "deep throat," a reference to the still-secret source whose revelations helped bring down U.S. President Richard Nixon in the Watergate scandal of the 1970s.

The author said he was staggered by the candour of Diana's replies to the questions delivered to her by proxy in 1991.

The book was published in June 1992, just months before Prince Charles and Diana formally separated. The couple divorced last year after 15 years of marriage.

Diana spoke of "the courtship with Prince Charles, the fact that she felt like a sacrificial lamb used by the establishment, the start of the bulimia, the suicide attempts and of course the long shadow cast by (Prince Charles' lover) Camilla Parker Bowles over the marriage," he said.

Mr. Morton, whose book sold five million copies in 83 countries, said Diana feared "Buckingham Palace would discover her identity as the deep throat of my book."

He said Diana gave six secret interviews for the book, read the manuscript and made detailed changes in her own hand. She even provided captions to family album photographs and chose the cover picture.

"Her words came from the heart, outlining in graphic and, at times, agonising detail, the sorrow and loneliness felt by a woman admired and adored around the world," Mr. Morton said.

"Today her testimony stands as an eloquent and unique witness before the tribunal of history."

Mr. Morton, who became a millionaire after his publishing coup, said he would make a donation to the victims of landmines, a cause dear to Diana's heart.

The revised edition, which goes on sale next weekend, includes 18,000 of Diana's own words speaking openly of her private joys and sorrows.

He revealed that Diana was most amused by American media descriptions of Mr. Morton as "noted author and historian" and promptly adopted the initials to nickname him Noah.

"She was desperate for (her) story to come out," Mr. Morton said. "She was so worried that, with the marriage basically over, she would be dismissed as an unfit mother and worried that they would take her children away from her and that they would kick her out of the monarchy and that she would seem to be the one who couldn't fix

Burma's exiles hails Suu Kyi congress

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's exiled government Monday hailed the Rangoon junta's decision not to crack down on a key opposition meeting as a "positive" step, but vowed the struggle against dictatorship would continue.

The exiled cabinet's comments came in a statement here after opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) held what it dubbed its most successful meeting in years at the weekend.

The congress, to mark the party's ninth anniversary, went ahead as scheduled after the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the military junta's official name, gave its surprise consent for the meeting.

"We regard as a positive development the permission by SLORC, unlike in previous years, for the NLD anniversary conference to take place on some conditions and without intimidation, blockade or arrest," the cabinet said.

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) was set up after the SLORC violently seized control in Burma in 1988 and imposed a hardline military regime.

In an unexpected show of flexibility, Rangoon allowed the two-day NLD meeting to go ahead. It ended with a renewed call for the ruling junta to enter a political dialogue with NLD leaders. "There is no other means to solve the nation's problems other than a meaningful dialogue," the party announced in a resolution adopted unanimously by more than 700 delegates. Earlier congresses held at the Rangoon home of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate have been blocked and hundreds of supporters detained as they attempted to travel to the capital for the meets.

But, despite the apparent shift in stance over the latest congress, the NCGUB — made up in part of NLD members who fled Burma after the 1988 crackdown — said the struggle for democracy in Burma would continue.

"We believe that the league, keeping General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi as its main pillar, will unitedly and resolutely face up to the SLORC military dictatorship," the exiled government said.

"We will also continue to struggle, with all our might, for the realisation of democracy and freedom," said the government, which has bases here, in India and in the United States.

The junta — which was accorded new recognition in July when Burma was admitted to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — showed new flexibility at the weekend.

In a radical shift from past practice, it gave the green light for the party meeting on condition that only 300 people attended. However 700 of the 1,300 people who turned up were allowed to enter Aung San Suu Kyi's lakeside compound.

Taleban arrest, then release EU commissioner

KABUL (R) — The purist Islamic Taleban Monday arrested Emma Bonino, European commissioner for humanitarian affairs, and 18 others for some 2-1/2 to three hours before releasing them, sources said.

Those detained and then freed with Ms. Bonino included CNN television correspondent Christiane Amanpour.

"I don't know why I have been taken into custody for a few hours," Ms. Bonino said later in an interview with CNN.

She said some of the non-governmental workers in her party were beaten on their backs by Taleban with Kalashnikov assault rifles but she herself was not hurt.

"No, I was just threatened by a Kalashnikov," she said when asked if she had been hit.

Asked if she had feared for her safety, she replied: "No, no, no... I was really afraid because the situation could escalate on their side." No one appeared to be in charge, she added.

She said all the belongings of the group were handed back upon their release without any explanation.

The commissioner, her delegation, aid workers and journalists were arrested after taking pictures in a women's hospital in Kabul, according to a Taleban security official.

"They have been arrested because they didn't have any letters from the authorities and they were taking pictures of women," said security official Hajji Habibullah.

"It is the policy of the Taleban that no unrelated man may take pictures of women. They were brought in for this offence. The head of the hospital came to complain to us that they were taking pictures," he said. "They had tape recorders and video cameras."

The taleban have banned all photographs of living beings, saying they are un-Islamic. When they captured Kabul last September, they tore tape from video and music cassettes and used it to festoon checkpoints.

The group was detained for several hours in the hot, dusty yard of a police station in central Kabul, guarded by turbaned Taleban fighters armed with kalashnikov assault rifles.

The Taleban laid out carpets in the shade of a tree, and one of the guards said the detainees had been offered Western soft drinks to slake their thirst.

Their release apparently came after the authorities consulted with Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, acting head of the Taleban's interim ruling council in Kabul.

Ms. Bonino was in Kabul for a 24-hour visit to assess the effect of the $40 million that the European Union (EU) has given for emergency aid in Afghanistan.

The EU is the single largest donor of emergency aid to Afghanistan.

Ms. Bonino's visit was being covered by Ms. Amanpour, the CNN reporter known for her reporting on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Ms. Amanpour was arrested with two members of a camera crew.

Also arrested were several aid workers who were showing the delegation their work in Kabul. They included at least two representatives from Care International, one of the world's largest aid organisations.

Russians kill 2 on Tajik-Afghan border

DUSHANBE (R) — Russian border guards said Monday they had shot dead two armed people who crossed into Tajikistan from Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the border guards told Reuters an armed group of five people crossed early Sunday into the former Soviet Republic at the Moskovsky border point, some 180 kilometres south of the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

"When the border guards tried to detain the trespassers, they opened fire. The border guards returned fire, killing two. Three persons fled to Afghanistan," the spokesman said.

At the site of the shootout the border guards found four kilogrammes of raw opium, he said.

Around 20,000 Russian troops are deployed in Tajikistan, an impoverished central Asian state bordering Afghanistan and China. They carry out peacekeeping duties and help guard its remote, mountainous borders.

Tajikistan's secular government and the united Islamist opposition have signed a peace agreement ending years of civil war. But the peace is often disturbed by maverick bands and drug couriers operating out of bases in Afghanistan.

Russian border guards say they have seized about 1,800-kilogramme of raw opium and 11-kilogramme of heroin on the border since the start of this year.

Sri Lanka grave could be 5,000 years old

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan archaeologists have begun excavating a site believed to be of a 5,000-year-old human grave that was discovered by villagers in the south, the Independent Island newspaper reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted the director of the Archaeology Department, Siran Deraniyagala, as saying the discovery was made about a month ago at a mining lagoon in Hambantota district, about 180 kilometres southeast of the capital Colombo.

Dr. Deraniyagala was not in the country to comment, but officials at the department confirmed the newspaper report.

Initial excavation has revealed that the physical indications of the human skeletons were primitive and could be of Sri Lanka's prehistoric man, Dr. Deraniyagala told the newspaper.

"We hope that within the next couple of months we will be able to ascertain the precise nature of the period and the content of the site," he said.

"If there is any presence of metal or ceramic we will be able to date the skeletons," said Dr. Deraniyagala, adding that Sri Lanka might have to look for foreign expertise for a detailed analysis of the skeletons.

He said that further excavations could also reveal any insight into a link between the Stone Age and the pre-historic period.

Colombian drug cartels, Russian mobsters join for global crime — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Colombian drug cartels are forming alliances with Russian mobsters to ship drugs to Europe and weapons to the Americas, the Washington Post reported Monday, citing top United States, European and Latin American police officials.

The Russian groups, which operate out of Miami, New York and Puerto Rico, are actively opening front companies throughout the Caribbean to launder money from their criminal activities, according to the newspaper.

The Russians offer access to markets in Europe for the Colombian cartels, which have seen a tighter U.S. market due to stiff law enforcement and competition with Mexican drug cartels.

In return, the Colombians are willing to buy and market the sophisticated weapons the Russians have to offer.

Government undercover operations have discovered Russian attempts to sell Colombian drug traffickers surface-to-air missiles, combat helicopters, and even a submarine, according to the newspaper.

Russian mobsters have been active in the United States for the past 20 years, linked to prostitution, extortion and gambling. However, they have only recently been linked to money laundering, according to U.S. law enforcement officials.

Currently some 30 Russian groups are operating in the United States, police say.

The Russian groups are tight and difficult for U.S. police to penetrate in part because of the language barrier.

According to one anonymous DEA agent, the Russians have highly educated people and former senior KGB agents in their organisations who have access to sophisticated weapons.

According to an indictment that came after a three-year undercover operation in southern Florida, one Russian operative sold at least two military helicopters to the Cali drug cartel, and was negotiating the sale of a submarine complete with a crew of 20 for $5 million.

Known Colombian and Russian criminals have been seen meeting on Caribbean islands such as Aruba, Saint Vincent and Antigua. The Russian groups have set up several banks in the Caribbean, including at least nine in Antigua, specifically to launder their money, the Post reports.

Negotiators grapple with mechanics of Northern Ireland peace process

LONDON (AFP) — Unionists, nationalists and republicans were gathering in Belfast Monday to work out the nuts and bolts of how to negotiate a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Hardened Northern Ireland watchers are still reeling with surprise at the fact that the sworn enemies will at last be negotiating. Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam says she still cannot "understand completely" how last Wednesday's breakthrough came about.

But eight of the 10 parties involved in the peace process are to meet in castle buildings, Stormont, outside Belfast, as of Monday to elect a business committee as part of preparations for the first full round of substantive negotiations which should begin next week.

Up till the last minute the Ulster Unionists, the largest Protestant party in Northern Ireland, had refused to negotiate with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. But party leader David Trimble, aware that the Ulster peace train was leaving the station, with or without the Unionists, decided not be left behind.

Sinn Fein National Chairman Mitchel McLaughlin described developments as a new beginning in the search for peace. Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to go to Belfast next week soon after full scale peace negotiations begin and is likely to meet Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, according to press reports.

He would be the first British premier to talk directly to a Republican leader since 1921 when Ireland was partitioned. Downing Street refused to discuss Mr. Blair's plans.

Ms. Mowlam, in a weekend BBC Television interview, warned that "in a sense it's going to be harder now than it has been in the past months." Although the two sides had cautiously agreed to their first true negotiations in decades, "there was a lot of doubt."

She continued: "There is a lot of lack of trust, not much confidence about. In that situation, to move forward is not easy."

Underlining the fundamental differences still to be overcome between the two sides was weekend violence between Catholics and Protestants which left 13 people lightly injured, according to Northern Ireland police.

Clashes in the eastern town of Warrenpoint resulted in six police officers and three civilians being injured. In Belfast a Molotov cocktail attack on Catholic homes claimed no victims.

Follow up searches were being carried out by Irish police Monday in a remote area near Wexford, south east Ireland after a substantial arms dump — believed to have been hidden by the IRA — was uncovered.

The weapons cache was concealed, police said. The find included three AK-47 assault rifles, a hand gun and a sawn-off rifle. No arrests have been made.

Two of Ulster's Protestant parties, the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and Robert McCartney's U.K. Unionists, are boycotting the talks. They were to hold a protest meeting later Monday in Belfast.

Ms. Mowlam said she had failed in a bid to persuade Rev. Paisley to join the negotiations. "I want the talks to be inclusive. We will keep trying to have all views represented round the table."

Author: Diana was source behind book

Local residents crowd around the wreckage of houses in the town of Parepare in Indonesia's South Sulawesi province after the area was rocked by a strong earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale. At least 17 people were killed and 331 were injured (Reuter photo)

Indonesian quake toll rises to 17; hundreds hurt

JAKARTA (R) — The death toll in a strong earthquake that rocked Indonesia's South Sulawesi Sunday has risen to at least 17 with 331 injured, the official Antara news agency reported Monday.

Rescue teams and military personnel were sent to the affected areas to evacuate the dead and injured, many hurt in falling buildings.

The quake struck around 9.38 a.m. Sunday and was centred about 20 kilometres north of the town of Parepare, an official of the Jakarta office of the Meteorological and Geophysical Agency said. He said the quake measured 6.0 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

Antara reported a series of aftershocks following the main earthquake.

It said reports from the area said 415 houses, 10 places of worship and 10 cars had been destroyed.

Sulawesi, lying on the boundary of the Earth's tectonic plates, is frequently hit by earthquakes.

Indonesia has been hit by disastrous forest fires which have sent a choking smog over large areas of South East Asia.

Patients evacuated from smog-hit area of Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — Oil giant Caltex has started evacuating staff families and patients at company hospitals on Indonesia's Sumatra Island because of choking smog, a company official said Monday.

But a newspaper report that two more people had died from the pollution was incorrect, government officials said.

"Some hundreds" of people had been evacuated by boat to Batam Island and then taken to Singapore by regular ferry services, a Caltex spokesman said. They included children and pregnant women.

The Kompas newspaper put the number at 130, but the spokesman said it could be more.

Caltex, a joint venture between Chevron Corp and Texaco Inc, has vast operations in Sumatra's Rio province, home to Indonesia's most productive oil fields.

An official with Indonesia's Environmental Management Agency (BAPEDAL) denied a report in the Indonesian Observer newspaper that two more people had died of respiratory illnesses in Pekanbaru, the capital of Riau, bringing the death toll to four.

He said one person had died of breathing problems in the area Saturday but added that his illness predated the smog.

Indonesia said last week that two people had died of smog-related illnesses. It did not give details.

An Indonesian aircraft crashed in northern Sumatra Friday after the pilot reported low visibility due to the smog. All 234 on board the plane were killed.

At least two ship collisions occurred last week because of low visibility in the busy Strait of Malacca, which separates Sumatra from peninsular Malaysia.

A collision late Friday between a cargo ship and an oil tanker left 29 people missing after the cargo ship broke in two and sank.

Out-of-control forest fires on Sumatra and in Kalimantan, the Indonesian half of Borneo Island, have blanketed vast tracts of South East Asia in a blinding and health-threatening smog for several weeks.

Officials in some areas have said one day's exposure to the pollution-laden air is equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes.

A 10-day state of emergency in Malaysia's Sarawak state, where pollution had climbed to hazardous levels, was lifted Sunday after heavy rains and strong winds.

Residents cast aside face masks as life returned to near normal but there was no suggestion that the crisis was over. Travel agents in nearby Singapore have said many residents are fleeing overseas to escape the pollution.

But Singapore is still considered better off than Riau. The BAPEDAL official however said the situation in Riau had improved slightly Monday after "10 minutes of rain" Sunday night.

He said visibility had improved to 500 metres from about five metres, but added the airport at Pekanbaru was still closed.

Six other airports in Indonesia were still closed, aviation authorities said.

International aid to help put out the forest fires and provide assistance to victims is mounting.

Some 10,000 Malaysian and Indonesian firefighters are trying to douse the blazes in Sumatra and Kalimantan. France has sent two teams of fire-fighting specialists while Britain has contributed $100,000 to a United Nations fund for victims.

An Indonesian soldier (left) and a policeman look on as Malaysian firefighters battle to put out a peat fire in Krya Bakti, Sumatra. Malaysia has sent a team of about 1,000 fire-fighters to jungle areas within Indonesia on eastern and South Sumatra to help put out the forest fires (Reuter)

Unidentified dead in Indonesian plane crash buried

MEDAN, Indonesia (R) — Grieving relatives wept uncontrollably as unidentified victims of Indonesia's worst plane crash, in which all 234 people aboard died, were buried in a mass grave Monday.

The 48 bodies were buried alongside another mass grave containing 62 unidentified victims of a 1979 air crash in North Sumatra.

At the latest crash site, workers continued to search for the black box recorders of the Garuda Indonesia Airbus A300-B4 which went down in hilly territory south of the North Sumatra city of Medan Friday, minutes after the pilot reported low visibility because of a smoky haze.

Garuda officials have said an official inquiry into the crash, Indonesia's worst air disaster, will examine whether the smog from out-of-control forest fires in Sumatra played a role.

They said workers were still sifting through the wreckage of the plane at the crash site, a banana and coconut plantation some 45 kilometres south of Medan, but heavy rains late Sunday had hampered the search. No sign of the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder had been found, they said.

Transport Minister Haryanto Dhanutirto led hundreds of mourners at the mass burial at a simple ceremony near Medan's Polonia airport.

Other victims have been identified, mostly from bits of clothing and personal belongings, and the remains handed over to their families. The bodies of nine foreigners are in the Medan morgue, the official Antara news agency said.

Mr. Dhanutirto saluted the dead after placing a wreath on one of the 48 elaborately carved and varnished wooden coffins.

Many in the crowd wept uncontrollably, clutching portraits of loved ones who were among the victims.

"We offer our deepest condolence to the families," Mr. Dhanutirto said in a brief speech. "We are praying that God will give you all strength."

One man placed the wedding picture of a couple who died in the crash in the grave, while a soldier supported a woman who staggered and almost fell after placing white flowers of mourning on one of the coffins.

After the brief ceremony, workers shovelled earth into the pit and later brought in a bulldozer to help in filling in the mass grave. The crowd continued to watch quietly, with only some muffled sobs breaking the silence.

Jakarta's Kompas newspaper reported that two other planes were in the vicinity when the pilot of the Airbus requested permission to land from the Medan control tower.

It said one plane had just landed while another had taken off minutes before. The control tower asked the Airbus pilot to stay in a holding pattern but the instructions could have taken the aircraft toward the mountains south of Medan, it said.

Antara news agency has said that the pilot reported low visibility because of the smoky haze just before the crash.

But other pilots have said the haze may not be the prime factor in the crash.

"Haze is an ordinary thing for pilots," said Shadrach Nababan, the head of the Garuda Indonesia Communications Forum for Pilots. "There are instruments in the plane and on the ground which can be used."

Said another pilot: "It is obvious the plane was flying too low and had left its flight path. As far as I can see, there could be two reasons: He was ordered to by the air traffic control or there were visual reasons. But we don't know yet."

Indian experts examine body to see if it is hostage

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian forensic experts Monday began examining a body unearthed in Kashmir to determine if it was one of four Western tourists kidnapped more than two years ago, police said.

Police exhumed the body last Thursday from a grave in Akingam village in Kashmir's Anantnag Valley after a captured militant said during interrogation that it was the body of one of the hostages kidnapped in the area in July 1995.

"A team of experts who arrived yesterday are examining the body in Srinagar," Kashmir police chief Gurbachan Jagat told Reuters in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, Srinagar.

"It will take some more time for the identification of the body," he said.

Anantnag is about 50 kilometres south of Srinagar.

A police official said on Saturday that samples of the body had been flown to the southern city of Hyderabad for chemical tests.

But Jagat said the two-member team from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Delhi had come to Kashmir for the tests.

Residents of Akingam told journalists that the body was of Ziauddin, a militant who died in a gunbattle with Indian paramilitary troops 21 months ago.

On July 4, 1995, Americans Donald Hutchings and John Childs and Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan were kidnapped by shadowy Al Faran militants while trekking in the Himalayas near Anantnag.

Four days later, Childs escaped. On the same day, the captors abducted German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe. Ostroe was found beheaded in August 1995.

Several captured militants have told interrogators that they believe the hostages were shot dead and buried in a south Kashmir forest.

Indian authorities and experts from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and Scotland Yard have scoured the area but come up with no clues.

Bigger guns brought to bear in battle for Congolese capital

KINSHASA (AFP) — Extremely heavy gunfire shook Congo's capital Brazzaville Monday, leading experts to say that one of the rival militias backing President Pascal Lissouba or his main foe had acquired new weapons.

Some specialists believed that shell explosions which could be heard in Kinshasa, across the Congo River from Brazzaville, indicated that either Mr. Lissouba's troops and Zoulou militiamen or General Denis Sassou Nguesso's Cobras had 120 or 125 mm cannons, hitherto apparently not used in the conflict.

Brazzaville has been wracked by non-stop fighting since Saturday between the president's men, entrenched in the south, and the forces of Sassou Nguesso, who was military ruler for more than a decade before Mr. Lissouba defeated him in multi-party elections in 1992.

Several diplomatic sources in Kinshasa said that both parties appeared set on battling it out after fruitless international mediation bids and warned that both sides were continuing to arm themselves.

The civil war has virtually divided the Central African country since Mr. Lissouba tried to disarm the private militias of political parties early in June, ahead of a presidential poll scheduled for July 27 and subsequently postponed.

The fighting in the capital has killed at least 4,000 people and driven hundreds of thousands to flee either elsewhere into Congo or to Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Before the big guns were heard Monday, the militias were using heavy mortars and machine-guns, multiple rocket-launchers and individual automatic weapons.

French embassy staff in the former colony, the last Western diplomats to remain in Brazzaville, Monday said they were unable to give any details of Monday's fighting, but that it was occurring throughout the capital.

The French envoy and his staff have all sheltered at Ambassador Raymond Cesaire's residence in Brazzaville's Bacongo district, held by supporters of Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas. They left the embassy in the city centre after it was hit by shells more than a month ago.

Gabonese President Omar Bongo and a U.N. special envoy, Mohammad Sahnoun, have been at the forefront of efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict, but neither side has observed any ceasefire apart from brief intervals of calm since June 5.

Sassou Nguesso has rejected constitutional court rulings which have postponed the presidential elections and prolonged Mr. Lissouba's mandate beyond Aug. 31, when it expired.

Mr. Lissouba angered the general's supporters by making Mr. Kolelas, who had been acting as a neutral mediator, prime minister while failing to attend the peace talks sponsored by Bongo.

A close aide to Mr. Kolelas, Dieudonne Boukaka Ouadiabantou, was elected Saturday to replace him as mayor of Brazzaville, some three weeks after the former city chief became premier.

Mr. Ouadiabantou was a co-founder, with Mr. Kolelas, of the Congolese Movement for Democracy and Full Development (MCDDI) of which the prime minister is leader and has represented Mr. Kolelas at peace talks mediated by Mr. Gabon.

The election took place in the absence of municipal councillors from the United Democratic Forces party of Sassou Nguesso, whose supporters have also refused to take part in any government of national unity.

Australian government hits back in travel row

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's conservative government, reeling from a damaging ethics scandal, went on the offensive Monday, accusing one key Labour politician of dubious travel expenses and others of perverting justice.

Amid rowdy scenes in parliament, Prime Minister John Howard and senior ministers attacked Labour over its own travel claims and failure to act against past abuses when it was in power.

Mr. Howard also announced that a sixth person, a senior official from his department, had quit over the affair.

He dumped three key ministers and two senior advisers last week as a row over wrongly claimed travel allowances plunged his Liberal-National administration into the worst crisis of its 18-month rule.

Deflecting the attack on his government, Mr. Howard accused Labour leader Kim Beazley and deputy Gareth Evans of covering up travel claims abuses by disgraced Labour defector Mal Colston when they were in power.

"To save your rotten political hide, you and your now deputy put your heads together and you decided that you would suppress it," Mr. Howard told parliament.

"It was a deliberate attempt to pervert the course of justice."

At the time, Mr. Beazley was in charge of the expenses system and Mr. Evans was attorney-general, the government's legal chief.

They shunned official advice to call in police over Mr. Colston.

Mr. Colston, now an independent in parliament's upper house, is currently before the courts on fraud charges over more recent allegations that he abused his parliamentary benefits.

Australian politicians are paid valuable add-ons to their basic salaries, including tax-free, no-questions-asked travel allowances of up to Australian dollars 320 ($230) a night for business trips.

Treasurer Peter Costello accused Labour finance spokesman Nick Sherry of dubious travel claims, demanding Mr. Beazley discipline the senator from Tasmania state.

"There's one name that's talked about in awe when it comes to claiming travel allowances in this parliament — Senator Nick Sherry," Mr. Costello told parliament.

"Here we have the bedouin of Brunei," he said, referring to Mr. Sherry's home town. Mr. Costello said Mr. Sherry claimed travel allowance for 240 nights in 1995.

American astronaut takes up residence on Mir space station

JOHNSON SPACE CENTRE, Texas (R) — U.S. astronaut David Wolf traded places Sunday with Michael Foale and moved into his new home on Russia's Mir space station.

The 41-year-old medical doctor and engineer officially joined the Mir crew at about noon EDT (1600 GMT) after his custom-shaped seat was installed in the station's Soyuz escape ship.

The space shuttle Atlantis arrived at Mir Saturday to drop off Mr. Wolf and deliver food, water and other supplies. Mr. Foale, who has been aboard Mir since May, will return to earth on the shuttle on Oct. 5.

"It's a great pleasure to be treading on U.S. metal if not U.S. soil," Mr. Foale told mission control after moving his gear to Atlantis.

The British-born astronaut told ABC news he would look back at his 4 1/2 month mission to Mir "with the greatest fondness."

"This is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my life. It will have changed me I am sure," Mr. Foale said, adding he was looking forward to being reunited with his wife and young children.

"I really do want to see them badly. I would have been disappointed had the docking not gone on time," he said.

Mr. Wolf spent his first day on the Mir setting up house inside the station's Kvant-2 airlock compartment.

"Talk about a room with a view," he said. "There's a window in all four quadrants. That alone should make people want to do this. It's unbelievable."

Previous U.S. residents had lived in the Spektr module until it was sealed off after its airtight hull was punctured in a June 25 collision with a resupply ship.

Mr. Wolf will have to vacate his bedroom when it is needed for spacewalks, so he asked to take some bags from the shuttle to keep his personal items together.

"He's not living in the quarters we had planned for him," said Jim van Laak, deputy shuttle-Mir programme manager. "He basically is living out of suitcases."

Mr. Wolf's mission to Mir went ahead despite congressional criticism that the station is no longer safe. NASA said two outside safety reviews endorsed its decision to continue is presence on Mir.

"I thought long and hard about American involvement in this programme and also whether someone else should follow behind me and I think its is very important that it continue," said Mr. Foale. "The work here is not always easy, but the value in working together with our Russian colleagues is priceless."

Atlantis, making its seventh visit, hauled more than 2,270 kg of cargo to Mir, more than ever before. The astronauts were also delivering 636 kilogrammes of drinking water to top up the station's dwindling supplies.

A replacement for Mir's troublesome positioning computer was the first item to pass through the docking port.

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'Those who live by the sword'

BELOW IS the text of an advertisement that appeared yesterday in the Israeli English-language newspaper The Jerusalem Post. It was signed, and presumably paid for, by the predominantly Jewish "Committee for Sane Israeli Policy," which is based in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The notice appeared under the headline "Those who live by the sword, die by the sword." We use it for the benefit of all readers, including those Israelis who have been writing us letters that we hesitate to reprint. The latest among those was written by a Reuven Zozulia from "Jerusalem, Israel." In it, he says: "The shooting (last week) of two Israeli embassy guards in Amman is additional proof — as if we really need any — that the Arab masses want all Israelis dead ... Arab political culture is barbaric ... The thirst for Jewish blood resonates in the souls of all your countrymen." What better way to reply — as if a reply is needed — than to reprint the "Committee for Sane Israeli Policy's" advertisement!

It reads as follows:

"Most of the media and many world politicians forget that Israel was born by the sword. We forget about the Hagana, the Stern Gang and the Irgun. What we should remember is that the British Government had a very difficult time trying to control these organisations. Even the members of these organisations did not know the identity of the members of the other organisations and possibly even their own members. Certainly, the British did not know their identities. The Arabs probably learned from the actions of these Jewish groups. Can anyone forget the bombing of the King David Hotel? Why does anyone expect the current Palestinian Government to be able to control its population's actions any better? Can Arafat be expected to be any better than the British or than the less militant groups such as the Hagana? Can anyone expect different behaviour from the Palestinians until they get their own sovereign country?

What can Israelis expect from a people that is kept in subjugation? The basic human rights of close to one million people, and the four freedoms the United States promised the whole world are being denied. Arabs are killed and maimed. Their property and ability to earn a living are also being taken away. They are expected to be docile. But, how can anyone be docile if he has no hope for the future? Israel's present actions towards the Arabs are similar to the actions carried out against the Jews during centuries of persecution, as in czarist Russia.

If a person's mother, brother, father or any other close relative were killed or even imprisoned, would not that person want revenge? Each one of Israel's actions provokes a reaction. Look at Bosnia, where even after generations people have not forgotten about retribution. And the more Israel takes action, the more people will hate and try to seek revenge. How can any Arab government — even Yasser Arafat's — be expected to control these individuals, who are without hope? Jews could not control their own underground, nor could England. England, and especially Ireland, cannot control the IRA, nor does anyone expect it to. Why then should anyone expect an Arab government to maintain control?"

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Kahled Zubeidi called for more efforts to increase trade among Arab countries. Citing reports on Jordan's conclusion of contracts to sell Iraq $750 million worth of products this year, Zubeidi said Jordanian products won in the Iraqi market over foreign products because of their high quality. He added that Arab countries have are realising the benefits of inter-Arab trade and the creation of an Arab common market, which, he said, would enable them to meet their needs without conducting business with Israel or including the Jewish state in regional trade. Zubeidi said Arab states can all benefitiby removing customs barriers and offering facilities for the flow of goods and capital among their markets.

Al Ra'i's Fakhri Kawar wrote the attack on Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al bears the markings of Israeli agents and indicates that it was an attempt to murder a leading personality representing the resistance movement in the occupied Palestinian lands. According to Kawa,r what is clear to all now is the fact that the scuffle on Gardens Street was no ordinary quarrel among Canadians and Jordanians, but a decisive attempt on the part of the assailants who used laser weapons in a bid to murder Misha'al. One can easily recognise that Israel is behind this attack because it is the only beneficiary of the elimination of a Hamas leader, Kawar said. He said that with the assailants in custody, the public has the right to know the facts and details about the incident and the outcome of investigations. He said it is clear that the "enemy" is trying to make Jordan an arena for retaliatory attacks against Hamas. Such actions, said Kawar, are adamantly rejected by Jordan as tampering with its sovereignty.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Listening to music — and political morality — in our Roman Odeons

In a neat little episode that highlights the convergence between history, tourism, and architecture, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities earlier this week officially "re-opened" the Roman era Odeon — the small, covered, 2nd Century AD theatre — in downtown Amman.

A musical performance and a fireworks display at the Odeon crowned several years of patient excavation and restoration work at the monument by Jordanian teams.

The protection, study and re-use of our archaeological remains have largely been undertaken this century as an exercise in entertainment for international and domestic tourists, with some economic spin-offs in terms of attracting foreign exchange from tourism. This purpose neglects the equally significant political dimension of our antiquities — which are nothing less than the physical remnants of our political and national history.

The Odeon building is a particularly appropriate reminder of how our political history can guide us in making the big decisions about our current national principles, priorities and directions. For in the Roman period in this region, the Odeon often served two functions, and thus today should make two political points: 1) it was, along with the bath, the triumphal imperial arch, the temple and other structures, a dramatic symbol of Roman cultural and political domination of the indigenous Semitic cultures of this region, and, 2) it was the place — as the Jerash Odeon confirms — where Roman and Oriental-Semitic concepts of governance meshed into a new form of political culture, for the Odeon was also used as the city council meeting hall. In the Jerash Odeon, the names of the city tribes represented in the city council are literally etched in stone on the Odeon seats, revealing a fascinating blend between tribal-based Semitic identity and council-based Roman citizenship and representation rights.

Such historical facts, combined with the continued re-use of ancient structures, should open our eyes to the wider lessons of our past, especially for relatively small political entities such as Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Kuwait and others throughout this region. This was also highlighted last week by His Majesty King Hussein's statement that Jordan and the Arabs seek peace with Israel, but not surrender or peace at any price.

Peace-making in the Middle East, today and in the past, has always comprised two kinds of actors: numerous vulnerable, dependent or small states, alongside a handful of regional and global powers. So as we sit back and enjoy the music in our refurbished Odeons and theatres throughout this region, we might note history's quiet reminder that small states like ours must choose essentially between two relevant role models from the past: the Nabataean and the Herodian states.

The choice is between the relatively unattractive status of vassalage, submission, subjugation, domination and destruction, on the one hand, and, on the other, a more dignified and sustainable form of sovereignty that blends independence and distinctive national identity with mutually beneficial trade, cultural and political interaction with other small states and the larger powers.

The Herodian state, for about a century and a half after King Herod's appointment by Rome as King of the Jews in 40 BC, was a relatively successful vassal state that existed largely at Rome's pleasure. The Herodian state regularly sub-divided into smaller and smaller ethnarchies and tetrarchies ruled by Herod's sons and grandsons; they were typical of the increasingly petty rulers of dependent statelets, and perhaps an inevitable lesson in the futility of building national identity on increasingly small patches of land or narrow ethnic and demographic bases. Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and other small states should review the Herodian legacy, before submitting to the wicked temptation to wave frantically the doomed flags of tribal statehood. Before the Herodian era, the Hasmonaeans (or Maccabees) in Palestine were only slightly better off, alternating between semi-sovereignty and demeaning dependence on Seleucid, Roman or Parthian power.

The Nabataeans in Transjordan were better off in their sovereign kingdom during the four centuries before falling to Roman rule in 106 AD. The Nabataeans generally refrained from engaging the stronger Hellenistic, Roman and Parthian forces in warfare, preferring instead to negotiate diplomatic treaties that served the mutual economic and security interests of both sides. The result was the durability and well-being of the Nabataean kingdom for about half a millennium.

Other local examples of constricted statehood from the past include the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites, the small kingdoms or tribal confederations in Transjordan during the first half of the first millennium BC. These alternated between independence at times, and at other times, vassalage with annual tribute payments to Assyria, Babylonia or even Judah to the west.

The rich historical record, especially from the very turbulent 1st millennium BC, suggests that the Nabataean rather than the Herodian model should inspire and guide the states of the region today in their quest for peace-making, stability and prosperity. Among their attractive attributes that have been passed down to us in historical records are the Nabataeans' fair judicial system, the humility of their leaders, the diversity of their economy, the depth of their cultural and human interaction with other civilisations, the positive balance they struck between spiritual and technological prowess, and their persistent, almost sacred, commitment to reasonable diplomatic compromise, rather than warfare, as the preferred form of conflict-resolution with their large and small neighbours.

The very different Herodian and Nabataean experiences are as much about our future as they are about our past. They are at once stark warnings and enlightening models. Some Jews and Arabs today seek illusory security in narrow nationalisms, territorial expansion, the political humiliation of weaker neighbours, or the protection of vassal status to mightier powers. Those who flirt with these deadly temptations should recall the many, often harsh, lessons of the 1st millennium BC and the early centuries of the 1st millennium AD, when all of these strange strategies were attempted, usually with tragic results.

It is very soothing to hear music played again in our ancient Odeons and theatres. These structures, however, also convey to us other messages that we should hear, absorb, and act upon. It would be a terrible, irresponsible shame if we relegated our antiquities primarily to the entertainment of tourists, without using them to promote the sort of stable nationhood and regional stability and peace that so often eluded our ancestors on these same small lands.

Israel's strong territorial assertions vis-à-vis settlements entrenched in several accords since Oslo

By Lu'ayy Minwer Al-Rimawi

Following is the fourth of a series of articles and excerpts from work due for publication in the forthcoming issue of the 1997 Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Laws, London, UK, dealing with the issue of Israeli civilian settlements in light of recent political developments. The author, who contributed the article to the Jordan Times, is a law doctoral researcher in regulation of Arab securities markets and a Tutorial Fellow and part-time teacher of international law at the London School of Economics, University of London:

PARADOXICALLY, SINCE the implementation of the Oslo accords, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have faced increased economic hardships, compounded by continuing Israeli drastic measures. Daily closures of the West Bank and Gaza are costing the Palestinian economy more than $9 million. Recent unemployment figures among Palestinians now stand at a high average of 70 per cent.

The Federation of Palestinian Workers' Unions estimates that there are now around 554,000 Palestinian labourers — subdivided into: 374,000 in the West Bank, 180,000 in Gaza and 65,000 in Israel — with work permits. Before the peace process, around 120,000 Palestinian workers held work permits, and another 40,000 worked without permits, compared to the 50,000 Palestinians presently allowed to work in Israel.

It is also generally estimated that Palestinians' income was down 40 per cent since the PNA took control of the areas in May 1994. To exacerbate the situation, recent drastic measures by Israel include the November 1996 Israeli Supreme Court's lifting of an injunction against the "use of moderate force" when interrogating Palestinian detainees and the more recent Knesset decision to limit compensation for Palestinians who suffered losses during the intifada. The injunction was placed following the death of Abd Samad Harizat, who was beaten to death during interrogation in April 1995.

In May 1997, a United Nations human rights committee characterised Israeli interrogation practices, such as shaking prisoners, subjecting them to long periods of loud music, cold air and tying them up, as amounting to torture that must stop. The bill was barely passed by a vote of 55-49. It defines actions taken by the Israeli army in confronting the intifada as "combat activity", a definition which would legally exonerate the military from providing compensation to victims. The bill also places the onus on the PNA to rebut the prima facie assumption that the appellant was not engaged in a "terrorist act".

Israeli justice sources estimate that 4,000 complaints have been filed and that 700 have been dealt with by the courts.

The Declaration of Principles of 1993

The Declaration of Principles (or what is now known as the DoP or Oslo I), signed on Sept. 13, 1993, can be criticised on many grounds. It left the Palestinians completely at Israel's mercy as it contained no serious guarantees for its implementation should either party deviate or recourse to unilateral actions. This has, predictably, led to severe practical problems when "negotiating" the various interim agreements which ensued, notwithstanding the almost "academic" mentioning of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 in its Preamble. This significant drawback was further entrenched by the fact that there was never a subsequent agreement or protocol which introduced credible mechanisms for arbitration or dispute resolutions. Article XV (Resolution of Disputes) of the DoP and Article XVII (Settlement of Differences and Disputes) of the Cairo Agreement, for example, have incorporated mechanisms for dispute resolutions. But these potentially useful articles were never expanded upon in a manner to challenge proscribed Israeli unilateral actions.

Moreover, the DoP virtually contains no reference whatsoever to banning or halting Israeli settlements. Neither does it even allude to their illegality. Yet, notwithstanding the fact that it was not intended to be a legally detailed document, it conspicuously lacked even general policy statements pointing to the illegality of Israeli settlements in its Preamble or any of the subsequent annexes.

Settlements, though, were mentioned, for example in Paragraph 3 of Article V (Transitional Period And Permanent Status Negotiations), as merely a constituent of the issues which were to be discussed in the permanent status negotiations. Paragraph 3 of Article V reads: "It is understood that these (permanent status) negotiations shall cover remaining issues including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbours, and other issues of common interest."

In Annex II to the DoP, the settlements were mentioned in contexts which equate them with proper Israeli territories and implicitly elevate their importance to matters relating to Israeli sovereignty. Paragraph (b) of Article 3 of Annex II (Protocol on Withdrawal of Israeli Forces From the Gaza Strip and Jericho Areas) explicitly prohibits Palestinians from exercising authority over the settlements, where settlements were mentioned together with other matters related to Israeli sovereignty: external security, jurisdiction over Israeli nationals and foreign relations.

In addition, the Agreed Minutes to the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements clarify that the jurisdiction of the council, which was mentioned in Article IV of the DoP, shall not include settlements. The same minutes also specify that with regard to Annex II to the DoP, "It is understood that, subsequent to the Israeli withdrawal, Israel will continue to be responsible for external security, and for internal security and public order of settlements and Israelis. Israeli military forces and civilians may continue to use roads freely within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area."

The Cairo Agreement of 1994

Israel's strong territorial assertions vis-à-vis the settlements was further reentrenched in the Cairo Agreement signed on May 4, 1994. The agreement practically legitimised Israeli control over the settlements hence institutionalising further the de facto fragmentation of Palestinian lands. Paragraph (a) of Article V (Jurisdiction) specifically excludes from Palestinian jurisdiction authority over settlements. Paragraph (b) of Article I (Definitions), elaborated that "the Settlements" means Gush Katif and Erez, together with other settlements in the Gaza Strip]. Paragraph 3 of Article V reiterates that Israel shall retain authority over the Settlements, the Military Installation Area, Israelis, external security, internal security and public order of Settlements, etc. The same position was repeated in Paragraph 1 of Article VIII (Arrangements for Security and Public Order), where it was stated that Israel shall assume responsibility for overall security of Israelis and Settlements.

Moreover, settlements were treated in a manner not dissimilar from treating Israeli territories when in Article XVIII (Prevention of Hostile Acts) it was mentioned that Israel was responsible for preventing hostile acts directed against the Palestinians which may be emanating from the settlements.

The Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995

The Palestinian position was also compromised under the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza (Oslo II) which was signed in Washington on Sept. 28, 1995. This writer strongly supports the view that it regrettably leaves it exclusively to Israel's discretion to determine the areas of settlements. It makes future Israeli redeployments contingent on meeting Israel's security concerns and renders future Israeli withdrawals conditional on maintaining personal security of Jewish settlers. It also deepens the process of fragmenting Palestinian lands into Area A, Area B and Area C, proscribing different legal regimes applying to them. [Paragraph 3/a of Article V (Security Arrangements in the West Bank) states that in Area B, for example, Israel shall have overall responsibility for security for the purposes of protecting Israelis and confronting threats of "terrorism".]

Oslo II has also virtually done nothing to change the pattern initiated in the DoP and the Cairo Agreements vis-à-vis Israeli settlements. In fact, Paragraphs 3/a of Article VI (Security Arrangements in the Gaza Strip) specifically stated that Gush Katif and Erez settlements as well as other settlements in the Gaza Strip shall remain under Israeli authority. In addition, Paragraph 3/b of Article VI even prohibits Palestinians from moving freely along the "coast road" and along the road from "Netzarim Junction to the seashore". Paragraph 1 of Article XII (Arrangements for Security and Public Order) also states that Israel shall continue to carry responsibility for defence against external threats, including responsibility for overall security of Israelis and settlements.

The Hebron Protocol of 1997:

The Hebron Protocol which was signed on Jan. 15, 1997, (preceded by the Taba accords) is criticised on similar grounds, though most Palestinian intellectuals have virtually been united in expressing deep reservations concerning its provisions. I, personally, strongly support the view that the protocol has been instrumental in consolidating Israeli control over the old part of Hebron and that it further legitimised Israel's jurisdiction over the settlements. This can be seen through the division of the city into H-1 and H-2 areas, especially where full Israeli control over the former was stated in no uncertain terms. H-2 comprises the settlements in Hebron proper, the Qiryat Arba settlement and the adjacent areas deemed necessary for settlers and the Israeli army. Yet, 20,000 Palestinians were left under the jurisdiction of the Israeli army. H-1 includes what is left of the city, which is estimated to make an overall of 80 per cent. Paragraph 2/c of Article VII allows Palestinians to establish police stations in Area H-1, manned by a total of 400 policemen, equipped with a total of 20 vehicles and armed with 200 pistols and 100 rifles. Paragraph 2/d states that Palestinian police may "operate freely". But Paragraph 4/b of Article VII also states that the council's civil power and responsibilities shall not relate to Israelis and their property, which implies Israelis living in the settlements.

Furthermore, the protocol did not contain any reference to the illegality of Israeli settlements or other continuing illegal Israeli practices. Neither did it mention that the lands on which settlements are built are actually Palestinian territories, an integral part of the West Bank and Gaza. Moreover, although the protocol was meant to be an interim agreement on Hebron only, it redefined the Oslo accords in a manner which solely serves Likud dictates.

Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, on Jan.16, 1997, in his statement to the Israeli Knesset on the Hebron Protocol, stated that he had achieved three things. The first was the formalisation of the principle of reciprocity, "for the first time since the Oslo agreements." The second was that "implementation of the redeployments will be an Israeli decision that will not be a matter for negotiation with the Palestinians." The third was that Israel alone shall determine the time frame of its future redeployments.

The above Israeli views were fully accommodated and supported by the U.S. administration. U.S. State Department peace process coodinator Dennis Ross's "Note for the Record" and former Secretary of State Warren Christopher's "Letter of Assurance" have severely diminished the Palestinian position. In his "Note for the Record" (designated as an official addendum to the Hebron Protocol), Ross specified certain responsibilities expected to be fulfilled by the Palestinians, which include revising the Palestinian National Charter, fighting "terror," strengthening security cooperation with Israel, combating effectively "terrorist" organisations, prosecuting and apprehending "terrorists," extraditing suspects, confiscating illegal firearms, etc. His "immediate, parallel" demands of the Palestinians were contrasted with demands that Israel merely "negotiate" agreements on safe passage, Gaza Airport, Gaza Port, etc.

The Israeli position was further buttressed by Christopher's "Letter of Assurance" to Netanyahu (Jan.15, 1997) in which he stressed the principle of "reciprocity". Furthermore, Christopher also dwelt on emphasising the strategic importance of American-Israeli relations and America's "ironclad" support and identification with Israel's security needs and the bilateral framework of the negotiations.

In his "Statement on Further Redeployments" (Washington, Jan. 15, 1997), U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns stated that the "Note for the Record" made it clear that "further redeployment phases are issues for implementation by Israel rather than issues for negotiation with the Palestinians." Burns also elaborated that Christopher's "Letter of Assurance" to Netanyahu refers to "the process of further redeployments as an Israeli responsibility which includes its designating specified military locations."

Moreover, the Palestinians could not find solace in the "Letter of Assurance" to Yasser Arafat from the president of the EU's Council of Ministers, Hans Van Mierlo. In this letter (Jan. 15, 1997), Van Mierlo states that the EU is "convinced that (Arafat) has reached a fair and balanced agreement which will favour further progress" and that "all the provisions in the agreements already reached will be fully implemented on the basis of reciprocity by both Israeli and Palestinian sides." Such remarks are particularly disconcerting given the fact that the Hebron Protocol was even devoid of the usual refrain that says the final status arrangements shall be subject to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

A glimpse of the other side of China's elite

By Seth Faison

BEIJING — In the midst of China's political season, the hottest book in the nation's capital is a juicy novel of political intrigue, sex and murder.

Yet, what draws most readers is not just the lively narrative about a Beijing party chief with millions of dollars and many mistresses at hand or the drama when his deputy turns up dead in a ravine outside the city. Rather, the fascination lies in its remarkable resemblance to a real case that struck at the heart of China's leadership.

As with "Primary Colours," the book that described with verisimilitude the 1992 presidential campaign of a Democrat from Arkansas, readers in Beijing have little trouble picking out the main players in the real-life scandal that parallels the book.

The best evidence that reality is mirrored by the book, called "The Wrath of Heaven," may have come when the alarmed authorities banned its distribution in Beijing. As might be expected, that only made it even more sought after.

Last week, as delegates to the 15th Communist Party Congress met in the Great Hall of the People to praise their leaders' valour, the book depicting them in an entirely different light was easily available at many bookstalls around the city — a sign of how much lies beyond those leaders' control in contemporary China.

"These copies are all pirated," said a bookseller at one stall on the Avenue of Eternal Peace, after fetching a copy he had hidden beneath a row of newspapers splashed with stories about the party congress. "I feel bad, for the author. Such a successful book, and he's not making any money."

Those looking for clues about the nature of life here after the death of Deng Xiaoping might look past the party congress, with its grand unveiling of plans for economic reform, and focus instead on the phenomenon of this book.

It reflects the ever-widening gap between the official version of an honourable leadership and the street-level view of that leadership as a self-selected cabal of money-hungry and power-grabbing men whose lives are far removed from those of ordinary folk.

And the way it was published by a state-owned outfit, and then widely pirated and semi-openly hawked after it was banned, shows how what is permitted in China is often determined by a mixture of surging market demand, official ineptitude and general confusion among the authorities.

Not long ago, politically sensitive articles and books were usually the work of behind-the-scenes power plays, with one leader or faction trying to discredit another. Yet today, many Beijing writers agree that the publication of "The Wrath of Heaven" was driven less by politics than by a desire to make money.

To most people who follow politics in Beijing — and it is hard to find one who has not read "The Wrath of Heaven" — the book's appeal lies partly in its story, with many details doubtless exaggerated for dramatic effect, but even more in how it captures the flavour of life among senior leaders.

"It's the first book to describe the extensive amounts of corruption by a senior leader — the millions of dollars, the endless stream of women," said one writer in Beijing. "It also pierces the myth that corruption in China is one or two bad eggs. It's actually a problem that cuts right through the leadership."

Since the author used a pseudonym, Fang Wen, there was wide speculation at first that it had been written by an official with access to internal reports about the actual case. But several writers say the real author is Chen Fang, a man in his 40s who had already written several unsuccessful novels.

Mr. Chen apparently first submitted the novel to a publishing house in Beijing, where an editor turned it down and circulated an internal report on his decision, so that by the time a publisher in Inner Mongolia brought it out earlier this year, many officials and editors already knew his identity. Efforts to reach the author for this article were unsuccessful.

Editors at the Yuanfang Publishing House in Inner Mongolia refused to discuss the circumstances surrounding the book. They only registered for a run of 5,000 copies in the first printing, but writers and editors in Beijing say hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of pirated copies have been reprinted elsewhere.

Just recently, the authorities announced that the former Beijing Party chief in the real case, Chen Xitong, would face prosecution on corruption charges.

Though the details of his alleged crimes were not publicised, an internal investigation is said to have found that he embezzled at least $24 million and amassed a collection of private homes where he indulged a taste for entertaining young female television newscasters.

His empire crumbled only after a financial scandal in 1995 implicated one of his closest aides, a deputy mayor named Wang Baosen, who was soon found outside Beijing on the side of a hill with a bullet hole in his head. The death was officially deemed a suicide, but keeping the exact circumstances secret stirred speculation about its true cause.

In "The Wrath of Heaven," the deputy mayor is killed by the son and accomplice of the party chief. The truth remains a mystery, but the party chief's real son, Chen Xiaotong, was sentenced in June to 12 years in prison for taking bribes and misusing public funds.

The father, Chen Xitong, was forced to resign as party chief in April 1995. Dozens of his assistants and staff members have been arrested or forced to resign.

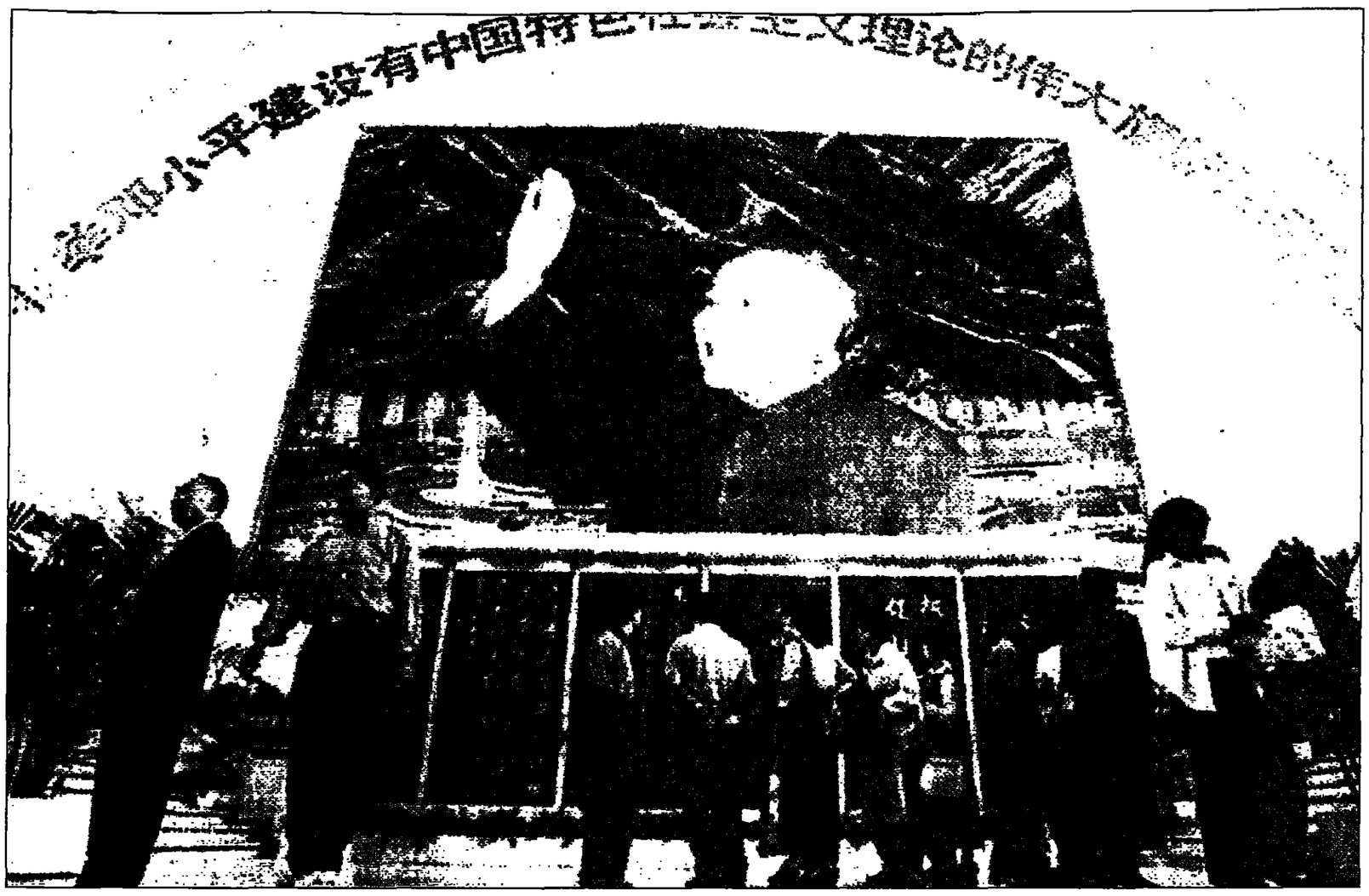
His political demise cannot have been unrelated to his bitter, long-running rivalry with President Jiang Zemin.

The two men competed for the top job of Communist Party general secretary in 1989, after the violent crackdown on demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. When the job went to Mr. Jiang, then the party boss of Shanghai, Mr. Chen is said to have complained that he had been cheated.

As for the author, who is no relation to the disgraced politician though he has the same surname, writers say he is unlikely to be punished. After all, his book, as "Primary Colours" did, reflects a real story but on close reading does not give away any state secrets.

"This book is no big deal," said the bookseller. "All the leaders involved have already stepped down."

New York Timess



A portrait of Deng Xiaoping greets visitors to an exhibition on China's achievements which is running in Beijing as the nation's leadership gathers for the 15th Communist Party Congress in the Great Hall of the People

Saudi assemblies should be close to people — prince

DUBAI (R) — Members of Saudi Arabia's appointed regional assemblies should be closer to the people and acquainted with their problems, Interior Minister Prince Nayef was Monday quoted as saying.

Prince Nayef, whose comments were carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), was addressing members of the regional assembly in the holy city of Mecca Sunday.

King Fahd approved the appointment in August of 200 men to 13 regional assemblies across the kingdom for a new four-year term, part of political reforms introduced in 1993.

Diplomats in the kingdom said the reforms were seen as fledgling steps towards giving Saudis more say in running the country's affairs, but a long way from western-style democracy.

"...What is needed from the members of the regional assemblies is to get closely acquainted with the conditions of citizens in every respect and evaluate these conditions and help with solutions for all citizens in every part of the country," Prince Nayef said.

"I ask myself and my fellow cabinet ministers and other government officials to give all the support to the work of the assemblies," he added.

King Fahd set up the regional assemblies in 13 provinces in September 1993, one month after he named 60 members of the Consultative Shura Council — the kingdom's first in 60 years — as part of long-promised political reforms in the world's largest oil producer.

In July the kingdom raised the number of Shura members to 90, widening representation to include active and retired military officers, senior government officials, business executives and representatives of the Shiite Muslim minority.

Liberian president visits Libya

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Liberian President Charles Taylor was in Tripoli for a state visit to strengthen bilateral ties, which he said were already "excellent," the official Libyan News Agency JANA reported Monday.

Mr. Taylor was greeted on his arrival Sunday night by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi after travelling over land from Tunisia because Libya is under an air embargo, said JANA.

The agency, which did not say how long Mr. Taylor would remain here, said the Liberian president hailed the "excellent relations between the two countries" and "the Libyan revolution's efforts" to defend African causes.

Colonel Qadhafi called Mr. Taylor a "great African militant" and said Libya had helped the Liberian revolution which Mr. Taylor launched in December 1989.

"We knew him when he was a militant. We met him and we decided together to escalate the revolution in Liberia, which we have followed in all its stages until victory, Col. Qadhafi said, quoted by JANA.

Mr. Taylor was elected president of Liberia in July after a seven-year civil war which destroyed the country's economy.

Israel eases closure while settlers submit more plans

(Continued from page 1)

before the government or to a cabinet meeting," said the aide, Michael Stolz.

Yeshayahu Yechieli, a spokesman for the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, said the new units were to be built in stages over the next 30 years as part of an expansion of the Alon Shvut settlement which has 2,000 residents. Alon Shvut is part of Gush Etzion, just south of the Palestinian town of Bethlehem.

"It is definitely part of the natural growth of Alon Shvut," Mr. Yechieli told the Associated Press.

Shilo Gal, head of the Gush Etzion bloc, said Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had approved plans previously authorised by former Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres to build 1,000 units for Alon Shvut. Mr. Mordechai's office had no comment Monday.

Mr. Gal said he hoped some 2,000 homes could be built within five years.

The Yediot Ahronot daily said that under the construction plans, the 10,000 settlement units would constitute a new city, to be called Ir Ganim, or Garden City.

The building plans still await approval by a regional planning committee and the outgoing Israeli military government in the West Bank. Mr. Yechieli said it would take at least a year before construction could begin.

In a related development Monday, the top Palestinian representative in Jerusalem informally moved his office to a protest tent outside a Jewish settler compound in Ras Al Amoud, an Arab neighbourhood in Arab east Jerusalem.

"Anyone who wants to meet me should come here," said the official, Faisal Husseini, sitting in a plastic chair and flanked by security guards. "It's a kind of presence to watch what's going on and prevent them from entering other houses and to demand the settlers leave."

Earlier this month, three Jewish settler families had moved into a building in Ras Al Amoud owned by Florida millionaire Irving Moskowitz, a generous contributor to Jewish settler causes.

The government opposed the move, and after several days of negotiations, the settlers were replaced by 10 Jewish seminary students who are to serve as caretakers. The Palestinians have rejected the deal as a farce since it permits a Jewish presence in Ras Al Amoud, a district of 11,000 Palestinians.

The Palestinians hope to set up a capital in Arab east Jerusalem.

In another Moskowitz project, Jewish settlers want to set up green houses in the Arab neighbourhood of Abu Dis which straddles Jerusalem's municipal boundary and is partially located in the West Bank. The green house project was proposed by the Moskowitz-funded settler group Ateret Cohanim. Mr. Moskowitz bought about eight acres of land in Abu Dis from Arab owners in the early 1990s, the Haaretz newspaper said Monday.

Naftali Yaniv, the spokesman for Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, on Monday confirmed a report in the Haaretz newspaper that a feasibility study for the green house project has been ordered.

However, Mr. Yaniv said the minister wasn't supportive of the idea because he didn't think the green houses were economically feasible.

Iraq accuses Iran of raids; exiles targeted

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier Monday, the Iraq-based Iranian exile group Mujahideen Khalq said Iranian planes attacked two of its camps near Baghdad but caused no casualties.

"At 7 a.m. this morning nine F-5 and F-4 Iranian air force planes raided two of our military camps. One is near Kut, 172 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, and the other near Jalwlaa, 130 kilometres northeast of Baghdad," the group's foreign affairs chief, Mohammad Mohaddessin, told Reuters by telephone.

"The raids caused no casualties among the (Mujahideen Khalq's) fighters but there are casualties among Iraqi civilians because some of the bombs hit Iraqi residential areas near these camps," he said.

Mujahideen Khalq uses Iraq as a springboard for attacks inside Iran. It has several camps, equipped with tanks, heavy guns and helicopter gunships, close to the borders with Iran.

The group's bases in Iraq have been the target of air and rocket attacks by Tehran. Their office in Baghdad, now ringed by a concrete wall, has weathered mortar and bomb attacks.

Mr. Mohaddessin said the attacks were the Iranian government's response "to growing support for the resistance and its president-elect, Maryam Rajavi, and also the rising crisis within the clerical regime," he added.

The group said their anti-aircraft units fired against the Iranian planes forcing them to flee "before they could drop all their bombs."

It said leader of the group Massoud Rajavi sent letters to the U.N. Secretary-General and members of the Security Council, "urging them to condemn this terrorist attack."

Iraq and Iran have fought a ruinous war from 1980 to 1988 and the two countries are still at loggerheads over several issues, such as repatriating prisoners of war and the hundred or more planes sent by Baghdad to Iran to escape bombing during the U.S.-led 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

Reports of the Iranian attack followed Turkey's fresh offensive in northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian News Agency said Monday Turkish warplanes bombed bases belonging to Kurdish rebels in the second week of an operation inside northern Iraq.

About 15,000 Turkish troops supported by militia forces entered Iraq last week in a campaign against guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) who operate from the region in their fight for self-rule in southeast Turkey.

The offensive has angered Iran and Baghdad, which lost control of northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war.

Anatolian said the latest operation was in response to the PKK recently sending 1,000 guerrillas into northern Iraq from neighbouring Syria and Iran to prepare for attacks on Turkey.

Turkish jets launch new air raids in northern Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

in two separate attacks in southeast provinces. A woman was also killed in one of the raids, Anatolia said.

Since 1984, the PKK's war for autonomy within Turkey has claimed 28,000 lives.

Iraqi Kurds established a de facto state in northern Iraq after the 1991 Persian Gulf war, and the Turkish Kurdish rebels took advantage of the power vacuum to set up bases there.

Anatolia said the guerrillas were fleeing towards the Iranian border or further south where a rival Iraqi Kurdish group maintains control.

Turkish troops have been aided by the Iraqi Kurdish opposition group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which has control over the region close to the Turkish border.

The KDP claimed Monday it snatched control of the strategic mountain of Metina, close to the Turkish border, from the rebels.

"The rebels put artillery on the mountain and used it to shell KDP positions," said Faik Nerweyi a KDP spokesman in Ankara.

Turkish troops have reportedly killed 138 rebels so far. At least six soldiers also died in the offensive.

Turkish incursions into Iraq have become common in the last two years.

Military officials have claimed success each time, but it has been only a matter of time before the rebels have returned to the bases and a new offensive has been launched.

5 weeklies file 2nd lawsuit against government

(Continued from page 1)

whether or not the law could be applied against the papers. In its response, filed at the Higher Court last week by the Attorney General, the government asked that the court reject the case.

Al Hadath Chief Editor Nidal Mansour said that the five this time are complaining that the government had misused its authority within the parameters of the press law and the Constitution.

Mr. Muhtaseb told the Jordan Times that Sawt Al Mara'a is preparing a second case against the government to sue for financial damages, and said that he expects the paper's lawyers to file the law suit today.

However, the editor said that he is currently in the process of establishing two additional publications — Asrar Al Isbou'ieh and Al Mir'a to counter the government's "aggression" against the press.

"For every paper they close, we'll open two more," he said during an interview with the Jordan Times. He did not give any further details on the planned publications.

Bassem Sakijha, former chief editor of Al Bilad, yesterday told the Jordan Times that he also was in the process of reestablishing a new weekly paper, Akher Khabar, which had folded before the introduction of press amendments due to financial problems.

Mr. Sakijha, who resigned from his post at Al Bilad following the sale of that paper to members of the Hroub family which also has equity in the popular Shihan weekly and Al Arab Al Yawm Arabic daily, said that he may begin registering the paper, Akher Khabar as early as next Saturday.

In a related development, the Jordan Press Association (JPA) yesterday also issued a statement criticising the government's suspension of the weeklies, and said that the "government has exceeded the spirit of the amendments which it introduced to the press law."

"The justification for closing the papers has a very weak legal basis," the JPA said.

Saudis could hike oil output to 20m bpd

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia could probably raise oil output to 20 million barrels a day (bpd) within a few years if it worked rapidly to raise its reservoir recovery rates, the businessman son of former Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said Friday.

Hamani Yamani said Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) kingpin Saudi Arabia should reexamine its policy of restraining output at eight million bpd at a time when other OPEC producers such as Venezuela were producing at full tilt.

"It's the ostrich syndrome. And we are the ostriches," Hani Yamani told Reuters in an interview.

"We have to get the oil out of the ground and put it in the bank — but in a programmed way that uses increased recovery," he said.

Mr. Yamani was explaining his call in a book for Saudi Arabia to flood the world with oil by boosting output to 20 million bpd within five years to boost market share and regain control over world oil markets.

"You carry out the increase in production by improving the recovery rate — without using more reserves," he said.

Current Saudi recovery rates of some 30 per cent, under a policy of lowest cost production, might easily be raised to nearer 50 per cent using the new technologies in common use elsewhere, he said.

"But you have to start to do it soon. By the year 2000 it would be too late," he said, explaining that other oil producers were already well down the road in taking advantage of enhanced recovery methods.

The book "to be a Saudi" is a rare public demand for sweeping economic change by a member of the business elite. It will be published in Britain in November.

Saudi proven recoverable reserves stand at 260 billion barrels, easily the world's largest.

Mr. Yamani, a 36-year-old entrepreneur who is involved in gas, construction, airlines and investments, said reaction to his call from Saudi oilmen had been mixed.

"Some people are the old school and they say 'we have the reserves, let's keep it in the ground." We heard this in the sixties and seventies at the time of Arab nationalism."

"On the other hand I have had other people who told me 'I agree 100 per cent and we should be doing this'." Mr. Yamani argued that a successful bid to control the oil market would help Saudi Arabia protect its long-term prosperity while promoting global economic growth.

"No one questions Microsoft's control of its market. Why do people question so much Saudi Arabia's limited control?" he said.

But he said he anticipated strong opposition to any big Saudi output rise from multinational oil companies.

"We can't stop world growth because of corporate greed," Mr. Yamani said. "I know the oil companies are powerful but they are not there to stop the world from living in a better environment.

"I think 'next quarter greed' blinds them but when they look at the overall picture — if they are capable — they will see they can make a new economic revolution."

Mr. Yamani's proposal runs counter to current saudi policy, which limits output to eight million bpd, keeping 2.3 million of capacity mothballed to help support world crude prices.

Third world producers like Venezuela, Nigeria and Algeria prefer to maximise revenue by running supplies at full tilt, ignoring consequences for the market.

Mr. Yamani says Saudi should become more involved in the oil futures markets to boost income.

"If a trader on NYMEX (New York Mercantile Exchange) can deal in oil, I'm sure a NYMEX trader who has sources of supply in Saudi Arabia can trade even better."

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Kuwait is waiting for $1.5b boost from abroad

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Foreign firms are lined up to invest some $1.5 billion in Kuwait through its "offset programme" but have so far only spent a fraction of that sum since the arrangement was launched in 1992.

Offset officials say the programme is making steady progress with several projects already up and running, while critics say it is a slow and expensive way of ensuring technology transfer to the oil-rich emirate.

The offset programme requires any foreign supplier winning a contract worth more than one million dinars ($3.3 million) to reinvest 30 per cent of the contract's value in Kuwait, or abroad with special approval.

The programme is mainly aimed at clawing back some of the funds which have poured out in defence contracts signed since Kuwait began a massive rearmament drive after the Iraqi occupation of 1990-1991.

Since then, 17 companies, almost exclusively defence contractors, have signed offset agreements committing them to invest almost one billion dollars, while the U.S. firm General Dynamics is in negotiations about an offset deal worth some $500 million.

In addition, the latest anti-ship missile deal finalised this month with British-French venture Matra Bae Dynamics and CMN will bring further offset funds.

Despite the growing list of commitments, Paul Nyhan, an advisor to Kuwait's offset programme, said actual investment so far in four estaolished offset projects is "in the neighbourhood of $40 million to $50 million."

"Based on the way the offset programme works here things are on track, although to the uninitiated the disparity in the numbers may look a bit odd," said Nyhan, executive vice president of Synergy International.

After signing an offset agreement, companies must first identify a suitable investment venture, have it approved and then set up the new operation.

Once set up, it will take a year before company accounts reveal how much has been spent under the offset agreement.

And foreign firms have eight years to fulfill their total commitment, although there are investment targets on the way.

So even though the programme has been running for five years, it is still early days to be counting what funds have actually been committed, Nyhan explained.

Four ventures have been established under the programme so far, including a logistics training and maintenance firm set up by Hughes International and a plant manufacturing waterproof membrane set up by Britain's GKN and a Kuwaiti partner.

Jassem Al Saadoun, a leading Kuwaiti economist and head of Al Shall Economic Consultants, said encouraging high-tech foreign firms to transfer technology is "a good concept."

But the programme is "very, very slow" and also runs the risk of encouraging foreign firms to bump up the price of their initial contract to cover offset investments, he said.

Companies facing offset obligations are also usually less than enthusiastic about the programme, which requires them to make a long-term commitment to Kuwait rather than pocketing the profits and moving on.

"If you go to a company, of course they will say they don't want to have any obligation," said Mazen Madou, manager of the offset department at the Finance Ministry.

"We always try to convince the companies that it is an opportunity for them to expand their business," he said.

Foreign firms rarely have to spend the full 30 per cent of their contracts' value because investment is based on a points system using a multiplier that rewards ventures which create jobs or offer technology, officials said.

International suppliers now face offset programmes worldwide, including the Gulf, and Kuwaiti officials said their basic 30 per cent rule is more favourable than the offset terms in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES:
(March 21 to April 19) Today you'll be pushed to think and react fast. Be careful. Things will be changing quickly. You'll have to use all your resources to make the right decisions in a split second. The only exception is in the area of romance. Don't try to push your sweetheart into anything.

TAURUS:
(April 20 to May 20) This is an action-packed day. Be careful when you're driving, too. There will be all sorts of strange things happening. You hate to rush into matters, but you may have to abandon that philosophy for a while. There won't be much time for pondering. Be prepared.

GEMINI:
(May 21 to June 21) This is an absolutely hectic day. You love a stimulating environment, but the people around you may get a little frazzled. Be careful that doesn't happen to you, too. Stay away from anything that might make you jittery. You don't want to become ineffective. You don't want to become a pamper.

MOON CHILDREN:
(June 22 to July 21) You're going to be confronted today. It's either a question that hasn't been resolved or something that needs to be done. For example, you may decide to move or completely redecorate the house. You could paint the walls or get new furniture. Make it just the way you want it.

LEO:
(July 22 to August 21) There's a lot of activity around you, but not much sense of direction. You're the calming factor. Help people make the right decisions. They're a bit frazzled. You are one of the few who will be steady and reliable. You'll find lots of opportunities to use your management skills.

VIRGO:
(August 22 to September 22) Today it might be prudent simply to stay out of the way. People feel passionately about the issues, both ways. To you it looks like they're being ridiculous. Don't laugh too loud or you'll draw attention to yourself. Remember, you want to keep a low profile.

LIBRA:
(September 23 to October 22) You'll wake up with a start, realising there are about 40 zillion things you need to do. The trouble is, you don't really know how to begin. Today, you could get a shove in the right direction. A confrontation will motivate you to try something new. This could turn out to be fun.

SCORPIO:
(October 23 to November 21) Your intuition is excellent. You're picking up on a lot of innuendoes. This is very helpful in making decisions. There are difficulties, though. You see that something needs to be done, but you can't quite do it. Something you already promised is in the way. Fix that first.

SAGITTARIUS:
(November 22 to December 21) You need to focus some attention on finances. It's time to bring money into a joint account. There's more going out than coming in. What you need is a brand new idea. If you can't find it all by yourself, ask around. Somebody else may have it.

CAPRICORN:
(December 22 to January 20) Everyone wants everyone else to do things, and quickly. That tends to create a lot of action. You're right in the middle of it. To win, listen to everyone else's input. Then, use as much of it as possible. Otherwise, they'll fight you tooth and nail.

AQUARIUS:
(January 21 to February 19) It looks like you're becoming interested in doing something different. It's a little farther out than you've ever gone before. You're entering another growing phase. Take another class. Pick one that will contribute to your work, not conflict. Better call for a catalogue.

PISCES:
(February 20 to March 20) Your intuition is excellent. Use it to find a path through all the confusion. You're also strong and confident. It's not enough to be creative. You've also got to sell what you make. If you're both imaginative and practical, you'll have everything you need.

MBA OPPORTUNITIES

A successful commercial bank with operations in Jordan and the West Bank is inviting highly qualified MBA's to apply for an exciting career in the commercial banking sector.
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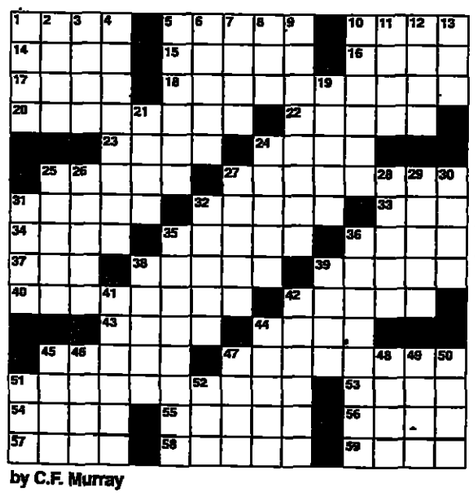
THE Daily Crossword



by C.F. Murray

ACROSS
1 Did garden work
5 Diamond side
10 Note
14 Otiose
15 Insect stage
16 Enthusiastic vigor
17 Laze about
18 Bet it all
20 Prize
22 Pigtike
23 Existed
24 Joust
25 Gaze fixedly
27 Ruled paper
31 Prepared
32 Like some humor
33 "Exodus" hero
34 Country way
35 Culls
36 Support
37 "O Sole —"
38 Put on
39 Radiant
40 Add commentary
42 Barbara or Clara
43 Scams
44 Fine spray
45 Satanic person
47 Let go
51 No deal!
53 Big wind
54 Florence's river
55 Military fortification
56 Actor Ken or Lena
57 Pace
58 Lived
59 Tidy

DOWN
1 Sword part
2 Fragrance
3 Fashion magazine
4 Variety of grape
5 Calculate
6 Love in Lodi
7 Boite
8 Part of the psyche
9 Twists and turns
10 Deserves
11 N.C. college
12 Brand
13 Single
19 Ruffian
21 Spanish artist
24 Rich cake
25 Killed
26 Mortise mate
27 Counterfeit
28 Diamond weight
29 Bouquet
30 Tubular
31 — mater
32 Chesterfields
35 Criterion
36 Geometric figure
38 Hardhearted
39 Headquarters
41 Margay look-alike
42 Mum
44 Gold or silver
45 "My kingdom — horse!"
46 Moroccan territory
47 Astronaut Sally
48 Markdown
49 Director Kazan
50 Headway
51 One-liner
52 London district

S	H	A	R	P		T	O	A	D		H	A	H	A
E	E	L	E	R		R	U	L	E		U	R	A	L
C	A	M	E	O		A	I	D	E		M	E	R	L
T	R	A	F	F	I	C	J	A	M		B	E	T	A
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A	A	R		S	S	S		P	E	R	E			
C	R	O	S	S	E		M	A	L	A	P	E	R	T
M	E	O	W		A	L	O	N	E		I	D	E	E
E	S	T	E	E	M	E	D		G	R	E	E	N	S
			E	R	S	E		R	A	E		N	E	T
C	R	E	T	E			J	O	N	A	H			
H	E	E	P		F	R	U	I	T	S	A	L	A	D
E	T	R	E		L	O	L	L		O	Z	O	N	E
A	R	I	A		E	L	I	E		N	E	S	T	S
T	O	E	S		W	E	E	D		S	L	E	E	K

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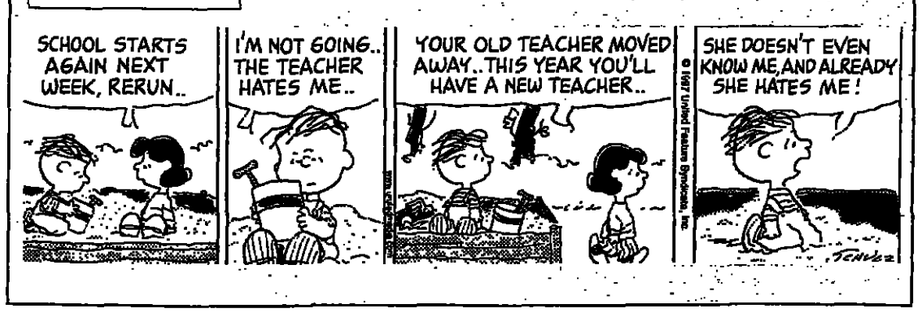
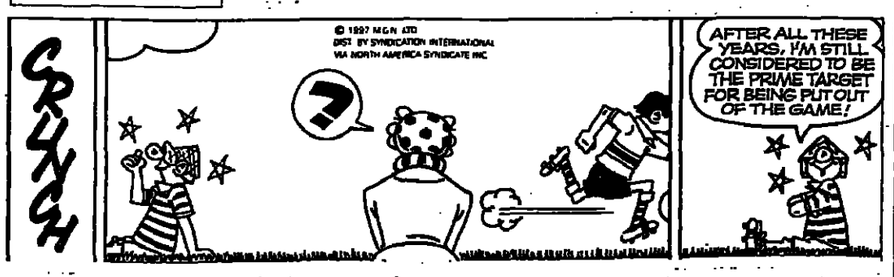
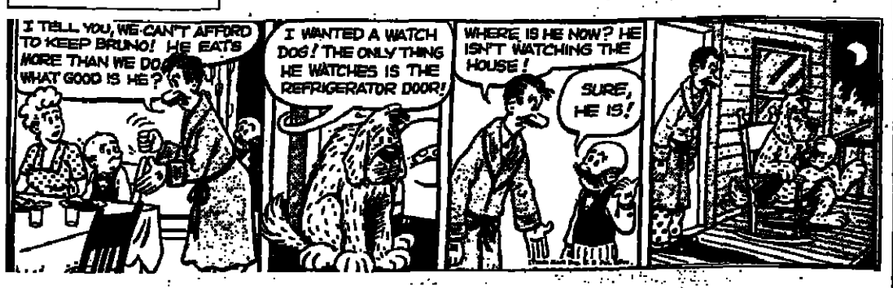
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"Cutting up my cards won't help. The Credit Fairy will just bring me new ones."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AKARP

MUPIO

DEVAUL

SOMIAC

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How many "free" ones did you have?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEMON LUSTY SEPTIC QUAVER
Answer: She passed this with flying colors — A SCREAM TEST

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

IDB finances equipment for Jordan Magnesia Company

** AN AGREEMENT was signed Sunday between the Jordan Dead Sea Industries Company and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank to cover the cost of equipment and machinery required to establish a plant that would produce magnesium oxide. Under the agreement, the bank authorised the company to buy the necessary parts, valued at about $28 million, and lease them to Jordan Magnesia Company (JMC). The lease will be for nine years, at an annual return of 7.5 per cent, following a grace period of three years. The plant is scheduled to operate in the year 2000 (Al Ra'i).

IDB approves 98 loans totalling JD23.8 million

** THE INDUSTRIAL Development Bank has approved extending 98 loans for a total of JD23.8 million during the first and second quarters of this year. Of the total loans, 71 were for JD13.2 million and extended to industrial entities. Chemical industries were awarded 18 credits totalling JD1.7 million and paper industries benefitted from three loans amounting to JD1.3 million. The other industrial loans were spread over plastic, wood and textile industries.

Loans to touristic projects amounted to JD10.1 million and benefitted 12 hotels, four restaurants and one rest house. Five hotels were in Amman, three in Wadi Mousa, one in Aqaba and another in Dead Sea area. The other credits went to projects in Amman, Mafraq and Tafileh.

During the first half of last year, the bank extended 58 loans totalling JD11.6 million (Al Dustour).

Industrial Estates Corporation opens office to serve investors

** THE INDUSTRIAL Estate Corporation has opened an office at the Amman Industrial Estate to provide various services to investors and efforts are underway to open a similar office at the Al Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid. By setting up this service office, the corporation aims at providing the investors with the most efficient, shortest and less costly services in addition curb routine, Amer Majali, the corporation's director general said in an interview.

Mr. Majali said the office was manned by experienced and qualified personnel and was equipped with a computer, direct telephone and a fax. The office, he pointed out, will consolidate the investment climate in the Kingdom and will simplify procedures for investors by providing them with suitable sites and other basic services. The office will also endeavour to solve any problems or obstacles that faces the industrialists at the estates (Al Dustour).

Egypt brewing up a storm of beer

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has put the froth back in its beer industry with the production this month of a new premimum lager bound to make the ancient Egyptians who invented the brew thirst in their tombs.

The Luxor Group, headed by an Egyptian-American management team, which bought the 100-year-old public-sector Al-Ahram Beverage Company (ABC) in February did not limit itself to serving up Stella Premium Lager.

ABC is trading global depository receipts (GDRs) on the London Stock Exchange which have almost doubled this week to reach $30.125 each from an initial quotation of 16 dollars, according to EFG-Hermes brokerage house.

Meanwhile ABC shares rose 226.52 per cent on the Cairo bourse since December 31, 1996, EFG-Hermes said.

But the Luxor Group and its partner, the Danish brewer Carlsberg, are facing tough competition.

The powerful Egyptian investment conglomerate, Orascom, is building a brewery in the Red Sea resort of Al-Gouna with Germany's Lowenbrau and hopes to sell its beer soon, industry sources said.

A third contender is also considering taking a stake in the market and industry sources said other companies have been granted licences to brew beer in Egypt.

"We asked consultants to carry out feasibility studies, and if we find the right partner we will join the fray," said Reda Gargur of the Egyptian Finance Company.

Premium Lager hit the market September 11, becoming the first beer produced by Stella in Egypt since 1967, when Stella Export made its debut at Egypt's only brewery.

"The ancient Egyptians invented beer and had five types with a higher alcohol content than modern brews," said Zahi Hawass, who manages the Pyramids.

"Beer was part of the national diet of ancient kings, prince and fellahs (peasants). Even the workers who built the pyramids thrived on it," Hawass said, adding that traces of ancient beer were found in ancient tombs.

At ABC, management is patting itself on the back while restaurateurs stock up on the new local brew.

"There is more demand than supply. It seems we're a big, big hit," said ABC spokesman Steven Keefer, adding that the lager had a 5.0 per cent alcohol content, higher than the Export's 4.2 per cent.

Since taking over in March, ABC has cleaned up the "mess" and restored Stella's reputation with the help of brew masters from Danbrew, a Carlsberg subsidiary, Keefer said.

"We faced 50 action points that needed to be dealt with urgently such as exposed pipes that were causing the beer to become flat, lack of cleanliness standards and such problems," he said.

"A brand new state-of-the-art $50-million brewery" is in the offing and will produce Carlsberg in addition to Stella in Al-Obur industrial zone north-east of Cairo.

The plant will be operational in July 1999 and will have a production capacity of about 330 million bottles, Keefer said.

Restaurateur Nasha Sursock who runs the fashionable Aubergine and Tabasco restaurants and the upmarket Absolut bar said beer consumption is up and should rise further when Stella's first draft beer and Lowenbrau come out.

"Since Premium hit the market on September 11, we have sold 3,000 bottles at Aubergine alone," Sursock said, noting that unlike the old brews the new beer is not flat.

His clients include Cairo's expatriate community and Egypt's new "yuppies" who pay 10 pounds (three dollars) plus tax per bottle of Premium.

Bouncing cheques on the increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of bouncing cheques, returned due to insufficient deposit or non existence of any deposits last month rose over July's figures by 59.7 per cent and the value of the bouncing cheques of August was 66.1 per cent more than the previous month.

According to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) monthly bulletin the total number of bouncing cheques last month was 22531 together worth JD 20.6 million in comparison with 14107 worth JD 12.4 million last July.

The bulletin said that the total number of cheques sent to the CBJ's clearing house last month was 736079 together worth JD 898.1 million against 75,400 cheques sent for clearance in July together worth JD909.8 million

According to the bulletin, in addition to the bouncing cheques of last month a total of 17306 cheques were returned for technical reasons and were worth JD 16 million, compared to 12353 cheques returned in July and worth JD 11.2 million

The bulletin said that the average daily number of bouncing cheques is 901 with an average total value of JD 823,200 during August compared with 543 cheques daily in July worth JD 475,400.

The bulletin also noted that the average number of returned cheques for technical reasons was 692 last month worth JD 693,000 in August compared to 475 daily worth JD 430,400 during July.

International Investment Fair to be held in Bucharest

BUCHAREST (J.T.) — Within the climate of stepped-up reform, privatisation and restructuring, Romania will host between Oct. 27 and 29 the International Investment Fair — TII 97, meant to promote direct negotiations between Romanian entrepreneurs and foreign partners.

Held in Bucharest under the patronage of President Emil Constantinescu, the fair also aims at facilitating the contact between business people and the conclusion of business contracts regarding investment projects.

The investment projects presented at the TII 97 cover the following fields: industry, agriculture, services and infrastructure.

To be held parallel to the fair, and grouping ministers from European countries, the Economic Cooperation Forum will aim at encouraging active dialogue among the participants.

Romania, the organisers of the fair say, has a domestic market of 23 million consumers, highly trained, competitive workforce, natural resources and potential for tourism, and a geo-strategic position for regional and international trade, with a friendly investment environment. It also has market access to the EU, CEFTA and EFTA, with which it signed agreements, is a founding member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and enjoys permanent most favoured nation (MFN) status with the U.S.

UAE builds $19m plant

DUBAI, (AP) — Emirates Glass, a modern glass processing plant, began operations in Dubai Monday.

Built at a cost of 70 million dirhams ($ 19 million), it has an annual production capacity of 1.5 million square metres (1.8 million square yards) of high-performance reflective glass.

Marketing manager Jean Lelievre said the company was hopeful of capturing up to 40 per cent of the 1 million square-metre (1.2 million square-yard) Gulf market in the first year.

The emirates, which has a booming construction sector, is the biggest consumer of reflective glass in the region with an annual consumption of 500,000 square metres (600,000 square yards).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 29/09/1997

	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	346.000	241.500	ARAB BANK	15.6	1.18	17	740	251600	340.00	340.00	-
N	2.340	1.680	JOR.NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	34	14456	27782	1.93	1.92	.01-
	3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	5	892	2631	2.99	2.95	.04-
	1.190	.890	MID.EAST INV.BK.	65.0	0.00	22	6500	6358	.95	.99	.04+
↑	2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	9.9	6.33	43	22176	55816	2.45	2.50	.05+
	5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	1	900	4437	4.95	4.93	.02-
	1.050	.740	JOR.GULF BANK	4.9	8.43	45	38200	32526	.83	.83	-
	4.050	3.520	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.27	34	32300	118773	3.66	3.67	.01+
	3.750	3.080	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	22.8	0.00	3	1207	4285	3.55	3.55	-
	2.200	.890	BEIT.AL-MAL (BEITMA)	.6	16.48	4	950	865	.92	.91	.01-
↓	5.150	4.240	ARAB BANKING CO.	19.5	0.00	2	250	1010	4.25	4.04	.21-
	BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 242.45	%CHG: -0.01		210	118571	506081			
	2.950	2.700	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.8	5.45	1	1000	2750	2.80	2.75	.05-
	4.550	3.800	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.7	5.06	1	50	198	3.95	3.95	-
	2.200	1.590	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	5.1	8.33	5	2500	4425	1.76	1.80	.04+
	2.200	1.820	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.7	5.03	1	1000	1990	2.10	1.99	.11-
	INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 114.06	%CHG: -0.94		8	4550	9363			
	2.050	1.550	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	9.8	4.93	150	236658	479685	2.03	2.03	-
	1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	14	5600	7540	1.35	1.35	-
	1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	100	92	.92	.92	-
	1.790	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	18.7	0.00	1	1000	1230	1.23	1.23	-
	3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	9.1	0.00	26	10700	37472	3.47	3.50	.03+
	1.190	.930	ZARKA EDUCATION	g	0.00	6	5800	5792	1.00	1.00	-
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.5	6.18	5	1800	3197	1.77	1.78	.01+
	SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 111.76	%CHG: +0.21		204	261704	535357			
	1.100	.930	ATTANGEEB	g	0.00	2	5090	5090	1.00	1.00	-
	4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.1	2.84	31	35518	134381	3.76	3.88	.12+
	11.040	9.070	JOR. PETROL.REFINERY	10.6	8.12	26	2942	32273	11.00	10.95	.05-
	1.420	1.050	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	9.7	8.93	2	1000	1120	1.10	1.12	.02+
	4.700	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7	4.34	21	6715	30931	4.59	4.61	.02+
	5.950	4.300	DAR ALDAWA DV.INV.	14.5	4.24	24	14377	84605	5.75	5.90	.15+
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM.IND.	5.8	10.08	7	7000	17409	2.49	2.48	.01-
	.910	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	11.6	0.00	38	69000	38228	.57	.55	.02-
↓	1.240	.900	ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD.	26.0	0.00	12	5450	4633	.90	.85	.05-
	.770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	g	0.00	19	12225	7336	.60	.59	.01-
	1.200	.510	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	g	0.00	12	6550	3795	.59	.58	.01-
	.920	.530	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	g	0.00	5	10500	7235	.68	.68	-
	.890	.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	g	0.00	33	59850	41895	.67	.70	.03+
	1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	17.0	5.26	2	1000	1330	1.33	1.33	-
↓	1.400	.720	KAWTHER INVEST.	69.0	0.00	1	2000	1400	.73	.70	.03-
	1.880	1.080	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	P	.21	4	1550	1922	1.23	1.24	.01+
	1.460	.900	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	12.2	10.99	20	10816	9822	.90	.91	.01+
	1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.9	4.43	3	8250	13035	1.58	1.58	-
	1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.6	0.00	10	5150	4380	.85	.85	-
	2.090	1.340	EL -ZAY READY WEAR	52.8	0.00	4	980	1469	1.51	1.50	.01-
	1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	3	1000	1130	1.13	1.13	-
	1.200	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	50.0	0.00	5	1528	1680	1.10	1.10	-
	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 123.22	%CHG: +0.65		284	268491	445096			
	GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 176.90	%CHG: +0.23		706	653316	1495897			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 29/09/1997

	.630	.300	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	g	0.00	1	500	160	.31	.32	.01+
N	.770	.770	DAWLIYAH/AUCTION 75%	73.9	0.00	80	800000	416000	.77	.77	-
	.640	.380	JOR.TRADE FAC.	12.3	0.00	60	173750	79206	.44	.46	.02+
	1.550	1.060	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	79.4	0.00	10	65100	75816	1.15	1.21	.06+
	.770	.660	UNION INV. 50%	g	0.00	15	52450	12064	.73	.73	-
	.570	.360	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	32	45100	18493	.42	.41	.01-
N	.950	.610	AL-DAWLIYAH 75%	72.9	0.00	9	37000	18820	.74	.76	.02+
N	1.050	.850	UNITED FOR FINAN.INV	52.1	0.00	1	2500	2500	.95	1.00	.05+
	.480	.200	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JEMCO	g	0.00	2	300	72	.23	.24	.01+
	.710	.490	ARAB FOOD & MED.	g	0.00	4	2900	1458	.51	.51	-
	.540	.380	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	47.2	0.00	5	13250	5333	.41	.41	-
	.720	.390	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	4	1497	583	.39	.39	-
	.750	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO	g	0.00	4	900	385	.43	.42	.01-
	.810	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	2	3000	2280	.76	.76	-
	.720	.580	MIDEAST PHARM. 75%	E	0.00	1	400	144	.62	.61	.01-
	1.190	.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	g	0.00	13	14250	13069	1.17	1.17	-
	.730	.550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	E	0.00	11	15702	8199	.66	.65	.01-

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 29/09/97 19:30

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7584	0.6186	1.4506	120.92	1.3839	1716.20	1.9797	5.9002
DE Mark	0.5687	-	0.3516	0.8250	68.79	0.7868	975.95	1.1260	3.3578
GB Sterling	1.6165	2.8412	-	2.3429	195.28	2.2371	2773.21	3.1988	9.5341
CH Franc	0.6894	121.19	0.4262	-	83.34	0.9538	1182.61	136.39	4.0697
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4536	0.5112	1.1991	-	1.1440	14.22	163.75	4.8811
CA Dollar	0.7226	1.2699	0.4467	1.0477	1.14	-	1243.55	1.4306	4.2626
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0216	0.3593	0.0843	1424.91	0.8040	-	11.51	3.4306
NL Guilder	0.5051	88.77	0.3121	73.21	61.90	0.6984	868.46	-	2.9799
FR Franc	0.1695	0.2977	0.1047	24.5577	20.45	0.2343	33.54	33.5400	-

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7502	0.3770	3.6402	0.3042	3.6729	1537.00	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2969	0.5325	5.1415	0.4297	5.1877	2170.90	4.7846
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	409.84	0.9033
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.9477	-	9.66	0.8069	9.74	4077.03	8.9856
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0836	1.01	422.23	0.9306
Kuwait Dinar	3.2873	2.3274	12.3281	1.2393	11.97	-	12.07	5052.60	0.9306
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0210	0.1026	0.9911	0.0828	-	418.47	0.9223
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4606	2.4399	0.2453	2.3684	0.1979	2.3897	-	2.2040
Egyptian	0.2952	0.2090	1.1071	0.1113	1.0746	0.0898	1.0843	453.73	-

Energy

Oils	Last	revious
Brent	19.83	19.72
W. Texa	20.86	20.84
Bonny	19.83	19.72
Dubai	18.50	17.77
UL Gas	191.00	191.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4690	0.165	0.3869	32.257
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4789	0.1684	0.395	32.938
KW Dinar	3.2873	5.7837	2.0338	4.7687	397.61
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.6664	1.641	3.8491	320.92
CY Pound	1.9165	3.37	1.1852	2.7801	231.7

Main Equity Indices

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	7936.67	14.49	0.18	7950.9	7893.5	7922.2
Newyork	S&P 500	947.26	2.04	0.22	948.85	941.94	945.22
London	FT-SE 100	5220.3	-6	-0.11	5244.3	5202.6	5226.3
Tokyo	NIKKIE 225	17987.21	-7.5	-0.04	17992	17681	17995
Paris	CAC 40	2988.96	3.33	0.11	2995.4	2954.1	2985.6
Frankfurt	DAX	4104.27	23.49	0.58	4121.7	4098.1	4080.8

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Women's Basketball Championship concludes tonight

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Women's Basketball Championship concludes Tuesday evening when leaders Al Orthodoxi meet titleholders Al Jazireh in the final match of the three-team event.

Al Orthodoxi are the only unbeaten team of the tournament and will be hoping to continue that record when they play the last match of the tournament which only took 12 days to conclude.

Although the titleholders scored a major upset over Al Ahli 64-47 in their Sunday night match apparently aided by the return of three players to the lineup, Al Orthodoxi are expected to win and snatch the title being the best prepared team with the most complete lineup.

Al Orthodoxi had displayed their intentions when they scored an 89-36 win over Al Jazireh in the first round in a clear indication that the titleholders would not be able to retain their crown.

Unless Al Jazireh manages to somehow win, Al Orthodoxi will take the title they last held in 1994. Al Ahli will finish second and the titleholders will drop to third.

Al Jazireh were able to win only one match so far with their lineup abandoned by almost all of its veteran players.

The team has evidently not prepared seriously for the competition resigning to the fact that they would not be able to win the event this year.

Al Ahli scored their only win 69-45 over Al Jazireh in the first round, they lost to Al Orthodoxi 67-50 in the first round and 82-60 in the second.

Al Orthodoxi last won the title in 1994 with Al Jazireh first and Al Ahli second in the past two seasons.

The three competing teams are mostly made up of national team players who took part in the Pan-Arab Games in July in addition to the younger players on the teams.

Al Jazireh are missing most of their original lineup for a host of personal reasons.

The team is led by Rana Husseini and includes Hala Ghattas and a younger lineup. Hala Muheisen, Rania Dajani and Indeirah Qaseisieh joined the team in their latest match. Tamara Khadra and Tala Mauge are also absent.

Al Orthodoxi had training matches in Syria and are led by top scorer Luma Abu Judum, Hind Ghouri, Zina Farah, Hala Khalaf and Lubna Masri.

Hoping to bring back the club's glorious basketball achievements, Al Ahli have been training under new coach Raffi Cholukyan. The team includes Sirsa Nagahway, Sirsa Abaza, Ruwa Hijazi, Zein Shasha' and Tetyana Qardan.

Standings

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Orthodoxi	3	3	-	238	146	6
Ahli	4	1	3	226	258	5
Jazireh	4	1	2	145	205	4

Blocks boost Bucs while Packers slide

TAMPA (AFP) — In an unlikely reversal of fortune, perennial doormat Tampa Bay has taken a commanding lead over reigning Super Bowl champion Green Bay after two American football stunners on Sunday.

Unbeaten Tampa Bay returned a blocked punt for a touchdown and watched a game-winning field goal attempt sail wide as time expired, giving the Buccaneers their best start in history with a 19-18 triumph over Arizona.

Tampa Bay also reached 5-0 for the first time since 1979, when the Buccaneers reached the NFL semi-finals.

At Detroit, the reigning National Football League champion Packers slid to 3-2 with a 26-15 loss to Detroit. Green Bay fell two games behind Tampa Bay, their guests next week in a critical early season contest.

Denver matched the Buccaneers for the NFL's best record, with John Elway throwing for 243 yards and three touchdowns in a 29-21 triumph over winless Atlanta.

The Broncos are one victory away from matching their best start ever, achieved in 1986 and 1977. They will try to go 6-0 on October 6 against New England in a battle of unbeatens. The Patriots were idle Sunday.

Jacksonville was knocked from the ranks of the NFL unbeaten, losing 24-12 at Washington.

The Buccaneers seem a team of destiny after beating Arizona despite only 147 total yards and being outmatched in almost every statistical category.

What won here for Tampa Bay was defence. Linebacker Alshermond Singleton returned a blocked punt for a touchdown. Tampa Bay used a fake punt to set up another score and Kevin Butler missed a 47-yard kick for Arizona on the final play.

"We haven't had a game like this in a while," Bucs defensive end Chidi Ahanotu said. "The offence wasn't clicking but the defence really stepped it up. This was the type of game that in the past, we would have lost.

"But we played as a team for 60 minutes and we were able to win.

A game like this will prepare us for the tough ones."

Tampa took the lead on Trent Dilfer's 31-yard touchdown toss to Karl Williams with 4:48 remaining, having squandered the 12-0 lead they took on Singleton's 28-yard run in the second quarter.

"It was a dream," he said. "It was my first big play in the NFL. I couldn't believe it happened. I mean, I had a play like this in college, but this feels much better."

Denver's victory also could not have been much sweeter since it came over Dan Reeves, the former Bronco coach who did not get along well with Elway during his stay in Denver.

Elway completed 18-of-32 passes, with scoring tosses to Shannon Sharpe, Willie Green and Detron Smith, and moved past Dave Krieg into fifth place on the all-time NFL touchdown pass list with 263.

Green Bay allowed Detroit's Barry Sanders to run for 139 yards and could not stop him from running off nine minutes during a fourth-quarter drive for a field goal that sealed the Packers' fate.

"You've got to give credit to the Lions," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "We gained a lot of yards but we made too many big mistakes. We played too sloppy. This is what will happen when you turn the ball over that much."

Two-time NFL Most Valuable Player Brett Favre completed 22-of-43 passes for 295 yards but suffered three interceptions.

The Dallas Cowboys beat Chicago 27-3 but struggled on offence and heard boos from their home fans for their ineptitude, relying on defence to stifle the Bears.

Michael Irvin caught six passes for 105 yards and a score and Deion Sanders returned a punt 83 yards for a touchdown. But Troy Aikman completed less than half his passes and Emmitt Smith ran for only 43 yards.

In other games, the New York Giants beat New Orleans 14-9, the New York Jets thumped Cincinnati 31-14, Pittsburgh downed Tennessee 37-24, Oakland dumped St. Louis 35-17, Kansas City edged Seattle 20-17 in overtime and Baltimore fell to San Diego 21-17.

RESULTS

Denver	29	Atlanta	21
Detroit	26	Green Bay	15
NY Giants	14	New Orleans	9
Pittsburgh	37	Tennessee	24
Tampa Bay	19	Arizona	18
Washington	24	Jacksonville	12
NY Jets	31	Cincinnati	14
Dallas	27	Chicago	3
Kansas City	20	Seattle	17 (Ot)
Oakland	35	St Louis	17
San Diego	21	Baltimore	17
Minnesota	28	Philadelphia	19

Heat in mourning as Alonzo hurt

MIAMI (AFP) — Miami centre Alonzo Mourning will miss the first month of the coming National Basketball Association season after surgery to repair a torn tendon in his left knee.

In the worst case, Mourning might be gone until late December due to the injury, which doctors discovered last week during a routine physical. The tear was diagnosed here Thursday, one week before NBA training camps open.

"I'm disappointed by the injury," Mourning. "I was really looking forward to the start of camp, especially with the new players we acquired over the summer. I'm hoping for a speedy recovery so I can get back on the court and help my team."

Mourning signed a seven-year contract worth $112 million in August of last year and responded with 19.9 points and 9.9 rebounds a game despite missing 16 games with a foot injury.

Miami won a club-record 61 triumphs and reached the NBA semi-finals before falling to eventual champion Chicago.

"Alonzo is the cornerstone of this franchise and while we are concerned for his health, we are happy that the injury was detected early," Miami coach Pat Riley said. "This will allow him time to rehab and make a full recovery and be back for the majority of the season."

Mourning's left knee will be immobilised for the next two weeks and he then will begin physical therapy. The Heat are hoping for a late November or early December return.

Mourning, the second overall pick in the 1992 draft, was acquired by Miami from Charlotte in a seven-player trade in November of 1995. He had a team-high 23.2 points, 10.4 rebounds and 2.7 blocked shots a game in his first season with the Heat.

Duane Causwell, obtained in August from Sacramento as a reserve centre, will likely split playing time with Isaac Austin until Mourning's return.

"One of the reasons we acquired depth in our frontcourt this summer was to provide a cushion against an injury," said Riley.

Rusedski, Henman face German challenge

BASEL (AFP) — Great Britain's U.S. Open finalist Greg Rusedski avoided compatriot Tim Henman in the draw for the Swiss Indoors here on Monday but both face German challenges in the first round.

The 24-year-old Rusedski, who went out to Pete Sampras in the Grand Slam Cup semi-finals on Saturday, meets David Prinosil while Henman, who lost in the second round of the Toulouse tournament last week to Prinosil's compatriot Nicolas Kiefer, plays Marc-Kevin Goellner before a possible second round engagement with third seed Goran Ivanisevic.

Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded one here after both Sampras and Australia's U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter pulled out, plays Swiss qualifier Lorenzo Manta.

Second seed Carlos Moya of Spain, who is in fourth seed Rusedski's half of the draw, faces dangerous German wildcard Tommy Haas.

Marion Hughes from Ireland takes a jump on Flo-Jo in the 9th round of the equestrian "Volvo Cup" competition in Zagreb. Hughes won the last round to get the "Zagreb Grand Prix Trophy" (Reuters photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Rusedski trains with Edberg guru

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's No. 1 Greg Rusedski has parted company with coach Brian Teacher and linked up with Tony Pickard, the former British Davis Cup captain who guided Stefan Edberg to six Grand Slam titles. Teacher, who won the 1980 Australian Open, had helped Rusedski rise from No 84 in the world to his current 10th ranking and they last worked together at the U.S. Open where the Canadian-born player reached the final. No reasons have been given for the separation although Teacher was not employed on a contract and the informal agreement between Rusedski and the Californian coach had been due to expire this month. Pickard said: "Greg is unbelievably competitive. There is no reason why he shouldn't get into the top five."

Williams keep faith with drivers

LONDON (AFP) — Williams Formula One team confirmed Monday that Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen would continue as the team's drivers for the 1998 season. Canadian Villeneuve currently leads the 1997 drivers' championships by nine points after winning the Luxembourg Grand Prix on Sunday, while Germany's Frentzen is third in his first season with the British team. "We are delighted that both Jacques and Heinz-Harald will continue Williams' Championship attack next season," said team owner Frank Williams, who last season sacked eventual world champion Damon Hill.

Van Roost wins Indonesian final

SURABAYA (AFP) — Top seed Dominique Van Roost of Belgium won her second Tour title here on Sunday after overcoming unseeded Czech Lenka Nemeckova 6-1, 6-3 in the final of the Wismilak International. Van Roost, the world number 28, overcame early nerves and the loss of her opening service game to love to win eight straight games and set up an ultimately effortless triumph over her 106th-ranked opponent. Van Roost, 24, sent down a string of meaty returns to the back court as she forced Nemeckova onto the defensive throughout in what was the Czech girl's first Tour final. Rank outsider Nemeckova held her serve in the second set to lead 1-0 but there followed five straight breaks before Van Roost held for 5-3. The Belgian then completed the victory with a crushing forehand return. "I was nervous at the beginning but then played very consistently," Van Roost explained. "In the second set she played very well and I got a bit scared. But then she started missing again."

Kiefer wins first ATP event

TOULOUSE (AFP) — Germany's Nicolas Kiefer beat Australia's Mark Philippoussis 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 on Sunday to win the $400,000 Toulouse ATP event for his first ever Tour victory. Boris Becker's protege, who won all his matches in three sets, had the better of Philippoussis who could not get his serve going. However unseeded Kiefer nearly let defending champion Philippoussis off the hook when he was one game from victory at 7-5, 5-3, only to lose the second set. Former Australian Open and Wimbledon junior champion Kiefer then started to serve better and gained the upper hand on the third seed who fired down 17 aces.

Hoddle recalls Liverpool pair for Rome showdown

LONDON (AFP) — England coach Glenn Hoddle on Monday recalled Liverpool pair Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman to his squad for next month's World Cup showdown against Italy in Rome.

Arsenal defender Tony Adams, Liverpool midfielder Paul Ince and Everton's Andy Hinchcliffe also return for the decisive Group Two game in which a draw will be enough to secure England a place in next summer's finals in France.

Hoddle was furious with both McManaman and Fowler four months ago when the duo pulled out of England's summer programme for non-urgent surgery.

McManaman had a knee operation while Fowler had an operation on his nose and with England facing a crunch date in Poland as well as the Tournoi de France Hoddle made clear his feelings to the pair.

McManaman, given a roaming forward role at Liverpool, started the season poorly, but has since responded with two glorious goals for the Reds against Celtic and Aston Villa.

Hoddle was at Upton Park on Saturday to watch the pair in action in Liverpool's 2-1 defeat at the hands of West Ham and he saw McManaman work hard all game and Fowler crash home a spectacular volley.

The return to the squad of Adams and Ince after injury and suspension respectively, comes as no surprise.

Although skipper Alan Shearer is still ruled out, Hoddle is desperate to have the competitive pair back and Adams is set to take over the captaincy from his Highbury teammate David Seaman.

But the return of Hinchcliffe is a surprise. The Everton left back broke into the squad at the start of last season playing in Hoddle's first three games.

But he damaged cruciate knee ligaments at Christmas last year and has only just returned to the Goodison Park first team.

But there is still no place for Chris Sutton, the Premiership's top scorer this term with nine goals while Leicester striker Emile Heskey and Rio Ferdinand return to the junior ranks.

Les Ferdinand is included despite not being 100 per cent fit but with Teddy Sheringham having recovered from the rib problems which forced him to pull out days before the Moldova game, he seems likely to have to be content with a place on the bench at best.

Hoddle explained the reasons for the recall of McManaman and Fowler.

"Leaving Steve out last month made him reflect a little bit upon it and he has scored two magnificent goals since," said Hoddle.

"Steve has done well since the Moldova game and has worked hard to get back into the squad.

"Robbie might still not be 100 per cent fit but he's got two big games against Celtic and Chelsea before we meet up.

"I also saw him score that magnificent goal at West Ham on Saturday and feel it's right to have him back in."

TODAY AT

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Paul Hogan ...in
FLIPPER
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Curt Russel ...in
CAPTAIN RON
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
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Major League Roundup

McGwire misses homer mark

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (AFP) — Mark McGwire slammed his 58th home run here Sunday on the final day of the Major League Baseball season, falling short of history but leading a set of top individual achievements.

Only two men in Major League history, both New York Yankees, have hit more homers than McGwire in a single season. Roger Maris set the record of 61 in 1961 while Babe Ruth hit 60 in 1927 and 59 in 1921.

McGwire hit 24 of his homers for the National League's Cardinals after being traded from Oakland of the American League, a swap that ensured he would lead neither league in homers despite having the best overall total.

Seattle's Ken Griffey won the AL homer race with 56. Colorado's Larry Walker led the NL in homers with 49.

The season did not end for eight clubs that begin playoff action Tuesday. Reigning National League champion Atlanta, the winningest team in the majors this year with 101 triumphs, faces Houston and San Francisco is matched against playoff debutante Florida.

In the American League, the reigning World Series champion New York Yankees will face Cleveland while Seattle takes on Baltimore.

All first-round showdowns are best-of-five. League finals and the World Series are best-of-seven matchups.

Other individual titles were decided with the close of regular-season play. Griffey also won the American League runs batted in crown with 147.

Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox won the AL batting title with a .350 average, his first and the first for a White Sox player since 1943.

Detroit's Brian Hunter won the AL stolen base title with 74.

Toronto's Roger Clemens became the first pitcher to win AL wins, strikeouts and earned-run average titles in the same season since Hal Newhouser of Detroit in 1948.

Clemens won 21 games, had a 2.05 earned-run average and 292 strikeouts, one more than Seattle's Randy Johnson.

In the National League, San Diego's Tony Gwynn won his eighth league batting crown with a .372 average, tying the NL mark set by Pittsburgh turn-of-the-century legend Honus Walker.

Detroit's Ty Cobb owns the Major-League mark with 12 AL batting crowns.

Gwynn became only the fifth player to win four batting titles in a row.

Colorado's Andres Galarraga drove in a league-best 140 runs, 10 fewer than his winning total of last year.

Pittsburgh's Tony Womack stole 60 bases, becoming the first Pirate to win the NL steals title since 1979.

Pedro Martinez of the Montreal Expos led the NL with a 1.90 earned-run average. Atlanta's Denny Neagle won 20 games to pace NL pitchers while Philadelphia's Curt Schilling set an NL record for right-handed hurlers with a league-high 319 strikeouts.

National League

Cincinnati	11	Montreal	3
Philadelphia	8	Florida	7
NY Mets	8	Atlanta	2
St Louis	2	Cubs	1
Pittsburgh	5	Houston	4 (14 Innings)
Colorado	13	Los Angeles	9
San Diego	5	San Francisco	3 (11 Innings)

American League

Minnesota	5	Cleveland	1
NY Yankees	7	Detroit	2
Toronto	3	Boston	2
White Sox	4	Kansas City	3
Baltimore	7	Milwaukee	6
Texas	4	Anaheim	0
Oakland	9	Seattle	7

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

AC Milan facing team crisis

PARIS (AFP) — AC Milan were facing a team crisis on Sunday after they crashed to a humbling 1-0 defeat to Vicenza before 60,000 home fans.

Their troubles contrasted with arch rivals Inter Milan who beat Lecce 5-1 on Saturday to stay top of Serie A and a 4-0 win for Parma over Udinese which moved them into second place.

Barcelona kept up their 100 per cent record and two-point lead in the Spanish championship on Saturday following a crushing 4-1 victory at Sporting Gijon.

In France Paris Saint Germain dropped their first point at home this season on Friday to allow Metz to motor three points clear.

German league leaders Kaiserslautern crashed to their first defeat of the season on Saturday, losing 3-1 to mid-table Werder Bremen.

Milan, who were expected to return to the top of Italian football this season with coach Fabio Capello and a re-built squad, are now in deep trouble after two defeats and two draws this season.

But Vicenza, who knocked Milan out of last season's Italian Cup, took a crucial 45th minute lead when Arturo Di Napoli cracked home a superb 25-yard free-kick and then never looked back.

Milan President Silvio Berlusconi, who said before the kick-off that they had hired too many foreigners this season (14 in total), is bound to be looking for explanations from Capello this week.

Fiorentina took a 24th minute lead against Empoli through Argentine skipper Gabriel Batistuta but still ended up losing 2-1.

Batistuta, the Serie A's top goalscorer, scored his seventh goal in four matches to put Fiorentina in front — collecting a defence-splitting pass from Anselmo Robbiati and rounding the goalkeeper.

But Empoli midfielder Max Tonetto cancelled out the Argentine skipper's strike on the hour and Giovanni Martusciello drove home the winner into the top right-hand corner in the fifth minute of injury time.

Lazio stayed among the top clubs after scoring twice in injury-time to come back miraculously from 2-1 down to beat Bari 3-2 on Saturday night.

Inter, with two goals a piece from Ronaldo and Youri Djorkaeff, have a maximum 12 points from four matches — two points clear of Parma.

Barcelona's Brazilian striker Rivaldo and Spanish international Luis Enrique found the net twice each to keep the Catalonians ahead of champions Real Madrid.

Rivaldo is becoming a worthy successor to world player of the year Ronaldo as he heads the Spanish scorers list with five goals in four matches.

And Luis Enrique had the fortune to hit a double in his home town and against his first profession club.

Madrid also won away — 2-0 to Valencia with goals from Pedrag Mitajovic and Raul.

Paris Saint Germain could only draw 1-1 with struggling Montpellier to allow Metz to take sole leadership in France.

After three successive home wins, the Parc des Princes crowd could only watch PSG draw to remain second but Metz won 3-0 against Auxerre who continued their poor early season form.

PSG's Brazilian Rai hit his fourth goal of the season from the spot on 29 minutes after a controversial penalty decision.

But the decision stood and a composed Rai sent Bruno Martini the wrong way for his fourth penalty of the season — one in the European Cup and three in the league.

Then a shot by Montpellier's Ibrahima Bakayoko's was parried by keeper Christophe Revault only for skipper Pascal Baills to put the ball through his legs for the equaliser.

Metz could thank Bruno Rodriguez, Frederic Meyrieu and Robert Pires for their thrashing of Auxerre and they are now the only unbeaten team in the championship.

Despite Kaiserslautern's setback against Bremen, Otto Rehhagel's men hold a two-point lead over Bayern Munich who were held 1-1 on Friday at the Olympic Stadium by UEFA Cup holders Schalke 04.

Promoted last season, Kaiserslautern, who won at Munich on the opening day, took the lead on Saturday through Olaf Marschall on five minutes.

But the visitors, formerly coached by Rehhagel, roared back with goals from Bruno Labbadia, once a championship-winner with the home side, before securing the points with late strikes from Havard Flo and Dieter Frey.

In Holland, leaders Ajax won for the eighth consecutive time, 1-0 at Heerenveen, to go four points ahead of Feyernoord, who drew 1-1 with PSV Eindhoven.

FC Bruges lead the Belgian league from Genk and Lommel by two points in a weekend which saw them win 4-2 at Lierse and Porto, who beat Campomaiorense 3-0, are three points in front of Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal.

Switzerland's Zulle wins 2nd consecutive Tour of Spain

MADRID (AP) — Swiss cyclist Alex Zulle clinched his second consecutive Tour of Spain on Sunday when he finished the 22-day race 5 minutes, 7 seconds ahead of closest rival Fernando Escartin of Spain.

The 29-year-old rider, who has worn the leading yellow jersey since the ninth stage, sealed the victory Saturday when he widened his advantage over Escartin by winning a 43-kilometre time trial.

Zulle's fellow countryman Laurent Dufaux finished third in the overall standings, 6 minutes, 11 seconds behind. Dufaux finished second last year.

The final stage, in which traditionally no major challenges are made, was won by Dutch rider Max Van Heeswijk when he inched ahead of the pack along Madrid's Paseo De La Castellana tree-lined avenue to win the 154-kilometre ide in 3:39:42.

Zulle, Escartin and Dufaux were among pack which finished the stage in the same time.

The race was the last for Zulle with the Spanish ONCE team which he leaves to join the lotus festina group. The win, however, made up for his forced early withdrawal from the prestigious Tour of France this year for a bone operation.

Zulle had little trouble controlling the Spanish race particularly after top Spanish cyclist Abraham Olano dropped out in the seventh stage.

"He was the best and was the rightful winner," said final stage winner Van Heeswijk. "I think he deserved it after the bad summer he had."

Kelme topped the team standings in the tour while Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, who finished overall 7th, won the prize for scoring the most consistent scores.

8th Arabian Horse Festival starts today

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the eighth consecutive year, horse-lovers all across the Kingdom can experience the beauty and grace of the pure Arabian, when the annual Arabian Horse Festival kicks off here Tuesday.

The festival, sponsored by the United Arab Emirates Equestrian Federation, will this year be the biggest ever. Organisers are expecting even more people to attend the 8th Arabian Horse Festival.

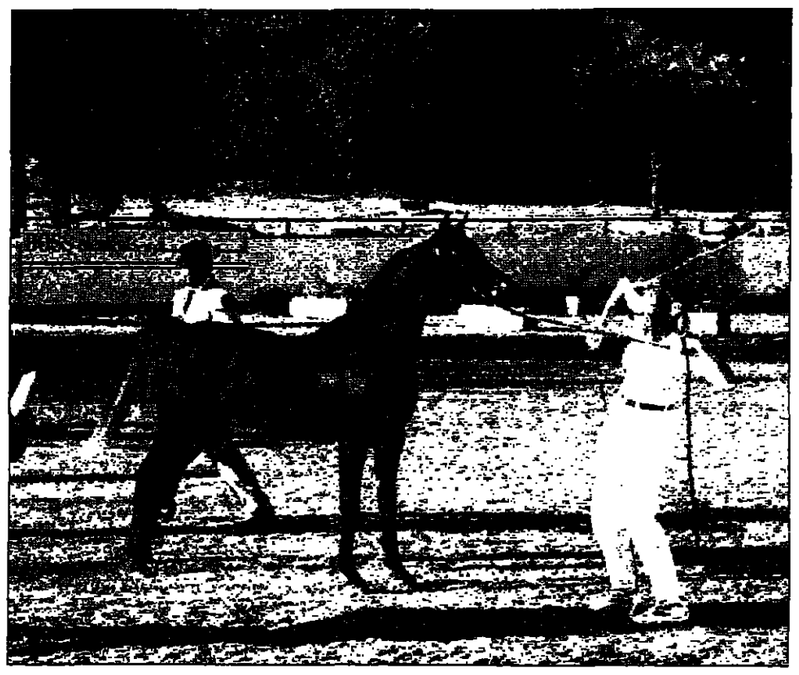
In addition to the horse show itself and races at the Royal Racing Club, the festival also offers a dressage event, a junior show-jumping event, and a photo exhibition of Arabian horses by Zohrab and Ebrahim Shalabi.

Ahmad Abul Ragheb, a spokesman for the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEF) and one of the organisers of the festival, attributed this year's expansion of the festival to the tireless work of HRH Princess Alia, president of the RJEF, who "has put in great effort, not only for the Arabian Horse Show, but in all areas of equestrianism such as show-jumping, dressage as well as breeding."

The races, which traditionally start the festival, will commence Tuesday at three o'clock at the Royal Racing Club in Tunaib. There will be six races with half hour intervals, one of which is flat racing. Prizes range from $10,000 for the flat race to $18,000 for the other five.

The rest of the events continue Wednesday, and will all take place at the Royal Stables at Hummar, including the photo exhibition. The festival will culminate on Friday, with the Middle East Championship.

Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Alia and Zein join Royal family members and guests at the 1996 Arabian Horse Festival (file photo)



Purebred Arabians such as the one shown above will be contesting the three-day event (file photo)

Judging the competition will be representatives from five different countries: in addition to Jordan, judges will hail from Australia, France, Poland and the United Kingdom. They will be looking at type, head and neck, body and topline, legs and endurance.

There are, all in all, 220 entries from six different countries: The UAE, Syria, Qatar, Palestine, the U.S. and Jordan.

The majority of entries are from Jordan, with all Jordanian stables breeding pure Arabians represented.

"It is going to be a very exciting and interesting festival this year", Abul Ragheb said. "I would recommend it to everyone, and I would like to extend a special welcome to readers of the Jordan Times. I believe that Arabians are very special horses, and I would like for all horse-lovers to participate in appreciating their beauty."

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NORTH
♠K 10 3
♥K Q J 7
♦J 10 2
♣9 6 5

WEST
♠5 2
♥6 4
♦Q 9 8 7 3
♣A Q 10 7

EAST
♠8 4
♥10 9 5 2
♦A K 6 4
♣J 8 3

SOUTH
♠A Q J 9 7 6
♥A 8 3
♦5
♣K 4 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Three of ♦

If bridge had a Man of the Year award, our vote for 1995 would go to Bill Root of Boca Raton, Fla. Not only did he, at the age of 71, successfully capture the Vanderbilt Knockout Team Championship playing on a four-man squad, a feat enough to daunt players half his age, but he and his favorite partner, Richard Pavlicek, also finished second in the Life Master Pairs by the narrowest of margins. In addition, his book "How to Defend a Bridge Hand" became a bridge best-seller, and is now available in paperback.

This hand, from an early round of the Vanderbilt, could well have been taken straight from that book. After a slightly aggressive auction by South, North-South bought the contract at four spades. Root, West led the three of diamonds, third or fifth best according to partnership agreement.

East won the first trick with the king of diamonds and, correctly reading it as fifth best, shifted to the jack of clubs, covered by the king and taken with the ace. West cashed the queen of clubs, East following with the eight and declarer the deuce. Should West now try to cash a second diamond or a third club? Choosing the wrong suit was likely to be fatal, since declarer was obviously going to get discards on hearts if given the chance.

There is a cardinal principle of defensive play known as 'Present Count.' The missing club spots were the 4 3. If East held both of those, the correct play would have been the three and not the eight — low from an odd number remaining. The eight showed an even number, so it was a simple matter for Root to cash a third club for a one-trick set.

Want to know more about cardplay on defense? Why not buy the book. It will be a worthwhile investment.

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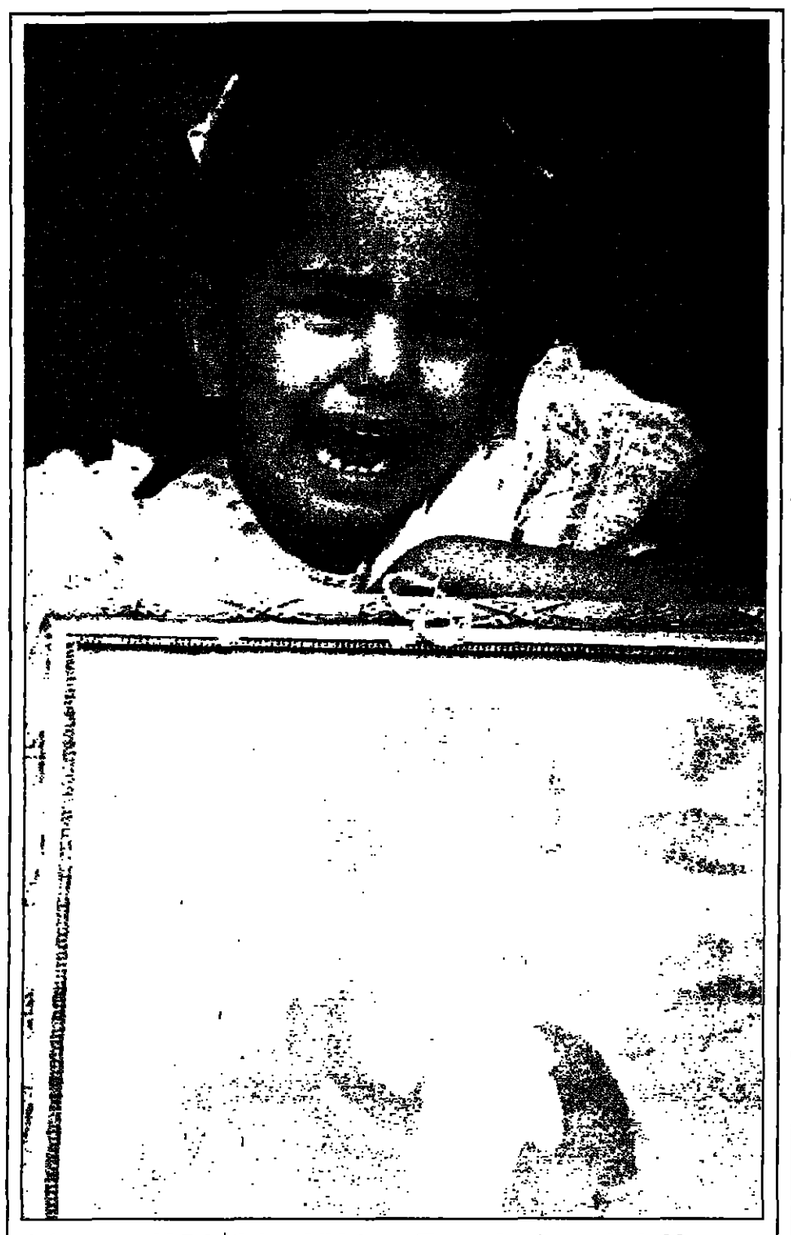

A four-year-old Palestinian child Asma Shasnuah cries as she holds a portrait of her father, Zuhair who is held in an Israeli jail, during protest at the Red-Cross in the Gaza Strip calling Israel to free political prisoners Monday (Reuters photo)

Gunmen cut 11 women's throats in Algeria — paper

PARIS (R) — Gunmen caught 11 women teachers at a fake roadblock in western Algeria, bound them hand and foot and then cut their throats, an Algerian newspaper said Monday.

The women were returning home from school Saturday, a regular working day in Algeria, in Ain Adden town, in the Sfizef area of Sidi Bel Abbes province, 370 kilometres south of Algiers, said Le Matin.

A man who cried out in horror when he saw what had happened, was shot at several times and wounded, the newspaper said.

The gunmen were ferried by truck to the area where they erected their roadblock before killing the teachers, it said.

The victims had supposedly received several warnings to abandon their jobs, which radical Islamists say women should not do but should stay home and care for children and family, the newspaper said.

There was no independent confirmation of the identity of the killers, whom the newspaper said were 'Muslim rebels'.

More than 500 teachers and students have died since 1993 in attacks the authorities blamed on Islamists. Most of the victims were gunned down inside or near schools while others died in bomb attacks.

The fact that more than eight million students and their teachers attended schools at the start of each academic year has been seen as a test of the power struggle between the government and its rebel foes in the past four years.

The authorities said the presence of students and teachers each day in classrooms is tangible proof that the rebels have failed to win people's hearts.

The most radical Algerian guerrilla group, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), threatened early in 1994 to kill students and their teachers if they continued to attend school, alleging that their studies were "hurdles to the holy war."

Saturday's killings came just days after the worst massacre of civilians in Algiers.

The slaughter in Algiers last week of more than 200 civilians, according to residents' estimates, prompted the relatively moderate Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) to declare a ceasefire beginning on Oct. 1. It said it wanted to expose and combat those who were butchering innocent civilians.

The government put the death toll in the Algiers massacre at 85.

A statement issued in the name of the GIA hailed the latest massacres as God's work and vowed to continue the killings, but the statement was not confirmed authentic.

More than 60,000 people have died in Algeria since early 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algiers cancels pass of AFP journalist

PARIS (AFP) — Algerian authorities on Monday withdrew the accreditation of one of Agence France Presse's (AFP) four journalists in Algiers, citing the agency's coverage of the strife-torn country.

The journalist was informed by the foreign ministry that his foreign correspondent's accreditation for 1997 was being withdrawn last week, and the move was confirmed despite protests by the agency.

No precise reason was given, nor was there any indication how long it was being withdrawn for.

A ministry official said the agency had been "warned" about its coverage of the unrest in the country, but had continued to defy the Algerian government's protests about its reporting.

AFP Chairman and Managing Director Jean Miot said the move constituted "an unacceptable attack on the freedom to exercise our profession," and expressed his "stupefaction and indignation" in a letter to the Algerian government.

"Recent stories run by AFP in no way justify this unprecedented measure," he added.

The decision comes after a massacre at Bentalah outside Algiers, in which 85 people were killed according to officials, and more than 200 according to survivors.

American Jews favour Palestinian state — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — More than 80 per cent of U.S. Jews favour the creation of a Palestinian state on condition that Jerusalem remains entirely under Israeli sovereignty, according to a survey carried out for the Israeli newspaper Maariv.

The opinion poll found that three-quarters of the powerful Jewish-American community feels Washington should use tougher tactics to force Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to ease his hard-line nationalist policies.

The survey, carried out after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made her first official visit to the region early this month, found that 82 per cent of American-Jews questioned backed the creation of a Palestinian state under conditions which would ensure the security of Israel.

Support for a Palestinian state was conditional on Israel maintaining sovereignty over Arab east Jerusalem including Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy sites, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

Seventy-nine per cent of those questioned also backed Ms. Albright's call for Mr. Netanyahu to freeze construction of Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land which Palestinians see as designed to prevent the creation of their own state.

And 84 per cent said the U.S. must put pressure on both Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, "so they will cooperate and act constructively."

Maariv said it was the first time that the American Jewish community, the world's biggest, supported the notion of U.S. governmental pressure on Israel.

The survey was conducted among 1,198 U.S. Jews. The margin of error was not given.

U.S. furious at Israeli efforts to block American aid to Russia

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. has warned Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu that his lobbying in Congress for a cut in U.S. aid to Russia over its arms dealings with Iran was harming bilateral relations, the Haaretz newspaper reported Monday.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbot told an Israeli Foreign Ministry official at a meeting last week that Mr. Netanyahu's meddling was damaging both U.S.-Israeli and U.S.-Russian relations, the newspaper said.

In the meeting with Shimon Stein, an Israeli foreign ministry expert on arms control, Undersecretary Talbot rebuked Mr. Netanyahu for ignoring repeated requests from President Bill Clinton to halt the lobbying, Haaretz said, citing a report on the meeting sent to Israel.

In recent weeks Mr. Netanyahu has made direct appeals to select congressmen and twice sent his diplomatic advisor, Uzi Arad, to Washington to pressure Congress to block aid to Russia until it stops helping Iran develop long-range missiles, the newspaper said.

Mr. Netanyahu has also enlisted the help of American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the powerful pro-Israeli Jewish lobby, to put pressure on Congress, it said.

Israeli officials accuse Russian firms of helping Iran develop nuclear and chemical weapons and long-range missiles which could deliver them to Israel.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said over the weekend that diplomatic efforts by Israel and the U.S. to convince Russia to halt its arms cooperation with Iran had failed.

"We believe that we need additional measures to impress on the Russians, for them to understand that [helping Iran] will hurt their economic interests," he said.

Mr. Mordechai said in the interview published Sunday that Iran, with Russian technology, would have missiles able to hit Israel, Gulf states, Asia and parts of Europe by 1999. The U.S. favours further diplomatic efforts to get the Russian government to crack down on several firms involved in helping Iran's missile development programme.

The U.S. effort is led by Vice President Al Gore, who discussed the issue with Russian leaders last week in Moscow and said later that new evidence had emerged that Iran was secretly working to build ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

Senators ask Clinton to halt Israeli gun imports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty senators are urging President Bill Clinton to stop the planned importation of semi-automatic assault weapons from Israel, according to a letter delivered to the White House this weekend.

"We have learned that the state-owned Israel Military Industries Ltd. has been granted permission to export to the United States for commercial sale tens of thousands of military-style assault weapons," said the letter written by Senator Dianne Feinstein and signed by 29 other senators.

The weapons are Uzi and Galil used by the military that have been modified, but the modifications do not affect their rapid-fire use, the letter says.

Sen. Feinstein's spokeswoman Susan Kennedy said the senators expect Mr. Clinton to consider the matter seriously.

"We know the president is very concerned about this issue and has been a leader in implementing common sense gun laws," Ms. Kennedy said.

A White House spokesman in Washington said Sunday that he had not heard of the letter. The president was returning from a four-day trip to his home state of Arkansas.

The senators contend the weapons should be banned under the 1968 gun control act, which limits imports to those that can be used for "sporting purposes," but the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has been applying this law inconsistently at best, Ms. Kennedy said.

Sen. Feinstein has said that the 1994 assault weapons legislation was not intended to supersede the 1968 law.

"As members of the Senate, we wish to state clearly that the intent of the federal assault weapons legislation was to keep weapons such as these off the streets of America," the letter said.

Sen. Feinstein has asked the ATF for a list of all semi automatic weapons import permits granted in the last two years, and she will press to stop the importation of such weapons from other countries, too, Ms. Kennedy said.

Turkish-Cypriot leader says nothing left to talk about with Greek side

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Monday he saw no reason for further talks with the Greek side on the divided Mediterranean island's future.

"There is nothing left to say at the negotiation table," Mr. Denktash told reporters in the Turkish sector of the divided capital. "We have to give up our attitude of 'let's not run away from the table' if we want to bring the Greek-Cypriots to the right path."

Mr. Denktash and the Greek-Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides have held several rounds of talks this past summer at the urging of the United Nations and the United States. No progress has been reported so far.

Cyprus remains split between Turkish and Greek sides since the 1974 invasion by Turkey to protect the Turkish-Cypriot minority there in the wake of a coup backed by Greece.

The latest meeting between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash held on the dividing "green line" last Friday was over security issues. Mr. Denktash said Mr. Clerides insisted on the demilitarisation of the island, ignoring U.N. proposals on measures to reduce tensions at the green line.

Mr. Denktash called that a ploy to push out the 30,000 Turkish troops from the island. He also claimed Mr. Clerides was trying to use his government's recent decision to buy surface-to-air missiles as a bargaining chip.

The missiles have infuriated the Turkish-Cypriots and Turkey, which has threatened to strike them if deployed.

Danish premier 'kills Rushdie' in party prank

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — "Bang bang you're dead," Danish Premier Poul Nyrup Rasmussen shouted, pulling an imaginary trigger toward a prostate, but equally make-believe, Salman Rushdie.

It was a pre-Christmas party joke in front of his cabinet colleagues, one they evidently enjoyed, according to a new book on the premier published here Tuesday.

"Salman, what are you doing lying on the ground?" asked Economy Minister Marianne Jelved, as Mr. Rasmussen handed out cigars and now and again banged on the parquet floor, shouting "stay down, Salman!"

Maybe he was just taking out his frustration, because the party piece last December followed a humiliating apology Mr. Rasmussen had to offer the writer after cancelling Mr. Rushdie's visit to Copenhagen for security reasons. Mr. Rushdie is living under a fatwa, or death threat, imposed in 1989 by Iran's then spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who accused him of blaspheming Islam with his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Mr. Rasmussen's decision to annul Mr. Rushdie's October 1996 visit sparked heated controversy in Denmark and abroad, nearly bringing down the government at one point, and the premier was forced to reverse his decision and apologise.

The biography by Niels Lunde and Henrik Qvortrup, called "Nyrup," contains the accounts from 200 anonymous sources.

The pre-Christmas party is a traditional event celebrated throughout the country at offices, clubs, factories and schools.

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Nurse in Saudi jail changed her mind on hunger strike — Foreign Office

LONDON (AFP) — A British nurse jailed in Saudi Arabia who was reported to have gone on hunger strike, changed her mind, the Foreign Office said last Sunday.

The Times newspaper, quoting a Saudi judicial official had reported in its Monday edition that Lucille McLaughlan, 31, had begun a fast after being refused permission to telephone her family after her conviction last Tuesday in connection with the murder of an Australian colleague.

"There were reports earlier in the week that she was considering taking this course of action," the Foreign Office said. But it added that at a meeting on Sunday with the British consul in Al Khobar, Lawson Ross, McLaughlan said she had given up the idea.

"Lucille told Ross today that she had decided not to," the Foreign Office said.

McLaughlan, was convicted last week of complicity in the murder of nurse Yvonne Guilford in December last year and sentenced to eight years imprisonment and 500 lashes. Her co-accused nurse Deborah Parry, 38, is still awaiting the verdict but could face the death penalty.

Her fate is the subject of high-level contacts between London and Riyadh.

After kidnappings of tourists security increased in Yemen

SANNA (AP) — Yemen, a country as famous for the kidnapping of tourists as it is for archaeological treasures, has beefed up security to try to thwart further abductions of foreigners.

Interior ministry officials on Monday said an armed security agent will accompany every vehicle carrying tourists to archaeological sites.

In addition, the drivers of vehicles for tourists, usually four-wheel-drive cars, will be armed.

Most of Yemen's archaeological sites are located in remote, mountainous areas that serve as strongholds for Yemeni tribes.

The heightened security measures follow a series of kidnappings of tourists by tribesmen who have demanded money, jobs and services in exchange for their release.

Tribesmen have kidnapped 14 Italians, 11 Germans and an American this year. All were released unharmed.

Yemen, a country on the southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula, is one of the Arab world's poorest.

Important tourist sites include Ma'rib Dam, the home of an ancient civilisation linked to the queen of Sheba, and the Hadramawt Valley, known as the "manhattan of the Desert" for tall structures made of mud.

Column

Chaplin stars as Mother Teresa in TV film

CANNES (AFP) — Geraldine Chaplin, daughter of the Hollywood film legend Charlie Chaplin, is the star of a TV bio-pic of the late Mother Teresa to be released next month. "Mother Teresa: in the Name of God's Poor," completed at the beginning of this year, was directed by Kevin Connor, who previously made a documentary on Princess Diana, another 20th-century icon who died last month.

Abbot Pierre's Crazy Horse wine on the rack

GENEVA (AFP) — French customs are blocking 250 bottles of wine which originated in the Swiss vineyard of do-gooder Abbot Pierre and is destined for the Crazy Horse club in Paris, a charity said here Monday. In the tradition of annual celebrity appearances by the likes of Peter Ustinov and Princess Caroline of Monaco, Crazy Horse dancers last year helped work the vines in what is the world's smallest vineyard.

"Mad Dog" publisher wants to launch new weekly with Taiwanese flag

HONG KONG (AFP) — The publisher of the Chinese-language Mad Dog Daily plans to offend "the high and mighty" by using Taiwan's flag on the cover of the maiden issue of his new political weekly here, a report said Monday. Wong Yuk-man said the move to launch "Mad Dog Weekly" on October 10 — Taiwan's National Day — was not to express support for Taiwan but to upset political bosses in Hong Kong and the mainland, who banned the public display of Taiwan's flag. "I have this great and constant urge to criticise powerful people," Wong told the South China Morning Post. "It's fun for me to offend the high and mighty."

2,000 French sheep in anti-wolf protest

NICE (AFP) — Shepherds drove 2,000 sheep along the famous Promenade des Anglais on Nice's seafront Monday in a protest at wolves roving their pastures in the mountains of the nearby Mercantour national park. The CJDA, a young farmers' organisation which organised the protest, said the number of sheep taking part was 2,000, the number which have fallen prey to the wolves. The CJDA says it is unhappy with the compensation that authorities pay for killings by the wolves, which first appeared in the park north of here after crossing the border from an Italian nature reserve.

Croatian woman bites dog to save her poodle

ZAGREB (R) — A woman bit a pitbull dog on the neck to save her poodle from its jaws in a painful battle involving her mother and father as well, a Croatian newspaper reported Monday. Dagmar Vidovic's father took their poodle Zeni for a walk in the Croatian Adriatic resort of Novi Vinodolski last Wednesday when a pitbull jumped out of the bush near their house and grabbed the pet, shaking it around. "When I heard my father crying, I looked out the window and saw a horrific scene — the pitbull holding Zeni in its jaws and my father lying on the ground," Vidovic told the Zagreb newspaper Vecernji List